

**University Council Minutes
December 3, 2001
1045 Pamplin Hall, 3:00 p.m.**

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Dennis Cochrane (for Bob Bates), Jeb Stewart (for Erv Blythe), Mark McNamee, Greg Brown, Lanny Cross, Ben Dixon, Margie Zelinski (for Elizabeth Flanagan), Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Kim O'Rourke, Len Peters, Joe Merola, Ray Smoot, Hap Bonham (for Rich Sorensen), Malcolm McPherson (for Bill Stephenson), Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer (for Susan Angle), Ruth Alscher (for Stephen Boyle), Alan Armstrong (for Ed Fox), Ryan Hartman, Bob Hendricks, Marge Murray, Edd Sewell, Susan Sumner, Jeryl Jones, Charles Bostian (for Tim Pratt), Kamal Rojiani, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, Rebecca Crittenden, Jack Davis, Pat Devens, John Hillison, Philip Huang, Suzanne Murrmann, Rodney Gaines, Kwaku Kankam, Brenda Hendricks (for Althea Aschmann), Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Marquea King, Melinda Pomeroy, Christina Coukos, Rachel Luken, Brian Montgomery, Susan Saunders, Clayton Smith

Absent: Peter Eyre, Paul Knox, Melvin Gillespie, Minnis Ridenour, Mike Koechlein, Mark Barrow, Wayne Durham, Dan Dolan, Bernard Feldman, Mike Martin, Randy Stith, Debbie Wilson, Robert Kopera,

Guests: David Ford, Gunnar Lucko, Dwight Shelton

Charles Steger, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 1, 2001

Dr. Steger noted that the minutes from the November 5, 2001, University Council meeting have been voted on and approved electronically. Once voted upon, University Council minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB (<http://intra.vt.edu/govern/>)

3. New Business

First Reading

Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 2001-2002A
Resolution Supporting International Outreach Programming

Ryan Hartman, Chair of the Commission on Student Affairs, introduced the resolution for first reading. CSA is seeking University Council support for the resolution. The Commission on Student Affairs feels that programming including an annual student-oriented focus on a specific region of the world, opportunities for cross-cultural learning and an outreach to student organizations on international cultural matters would provide exceptional benefits to the Virginia

Tech community by providing a peaceful, tolerant campus, and would also be in pursuance of goals in the Strategic Plan.

When questioned about what body would be in charge of the programs, Mr. Hartman responded that CSA has not determined the specifics of the programs. A CSA committee will approach various international organizations that might be interested in doing this type of programming and bring them together.

First Reading

Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 20001-2002B

Resolution Creating the Extended Campus Student Organization

Ryan Hartman, Chair of the Commission on Student Affairs, introduced the resolution for first reading. There is currently no mechanism for establishing student organizations at extended campus centers. Mr. Hartman and Gunnar Lucko, Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, contacted the directors of every extended campus center in Virginia. All of the directors expressed a willingness to help in implementing the registration process at the centers. The Office of Student Activities has agreed to provide the same general advising to the extended campus organizations that they provide to the main campus organizations.

The purpose of the resolution is to initiate a registration process for extended campus student organizations that would provide legitimacy to the organizations. The student organizations would also receive benefits from the centers such as the ability to reserve rooms, have mailboxes, advertise and participate in activities on Virginia Tech extended campuses.

Funding for main campus organizations comes from student activity fees. Extended campus students do not pay student activity fees and would not be able to request funding from the Student Budget Board. However, students on extended campuses would receive benefits outside of funding. Instituting a student activity fee for extended campus students may be a possibility in the future.

Joe Merola spoke in support of the resolution. He stated that Stephanie Scheer, the previous Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, and Gunnar Lucko have done a tremendous job of visiting the extended campuses to ensure that these graduate students are a part of the graduate student community at Virginia Tech. This resolution is an important part of continuing these efforts.

4. Ongoing Business

Second Reading

Commission on Research Resolution 2001-2002A Resolution Regarding Faculty Handbook Revisions for Special Research Faculty

Bob Hendricks, Chair of the Commission on Research, introduced the resolution for second reading. A University Council member expressed a concern about section 2.9.4 of the Faculty Handbook titled "Termination of Appointment." He stated that the language contained in this section of the handbook might not attract the quality personnel we desire to fill research positions. It states that faculty on restricted appointments can be terminated on 30 days' notice in the case where there are insufficient funds or no further need for services.

Pat Hyer responded by saying that if a center or research group could afford to continue an employee contract in the event of a change, they would do so. This provision in the handbook protects the university financially. This is a realistic response to the fact that the sources of funding for sponsored research are not certain. The terms of contract for a restricted faculty appointment states that a restricted appointment is contingent, even during its first year, upon continuation of funding.

Dr. Hendricks noted that this section of the handbook only applies in the event that the sponsor cancels or changes the scope of the contract. Dr. Hendricks added that this is needed because in the changing environment, the university is expected to do more business with small, high-tech start-ups. This helps protect the university from financial hardships.

Len Peters stated that most of the university's sponsored research agreements have a 90-day termination clause by which either the university or the sponsoring agency can terminate the employee. There is rarely a financial penalty clause.

Edd Sewell asked for clarification about whether this section pertains specifically to restricted faculty. Pat Hyer confirmed that this is the case. Dr. Sewell suggested that the title of the section be changed to read "Termination of Appointment of Restricted Faculty." Dr. Hyer and Dr. Hendricks accepted the suggestion by Dr. Sewell as a friendly amendment. Dr. Hyer will review the section again and make an appropriate recommendation for change before the resolution is sent to the Board of Visitors for approval. There may be a need to add another sentence that makes a reference to the prior period of notice if a faculty member is on regular appointment.

In response to a question, Dr. Hyer noted that other research institutions were contacted for information about standard clauses in employment contracts for restricted research faculty. The limited number of institutions with policies about research faculty included this kind of language in their policies.

A motion was made to approve the resolution. A friendly amendment was accepted to change the title of section 2.9.4 to include language that indicated

that the section referred to restricted faculty. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Council accepted the following Commission minutes:

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
October 19, 2001
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
October 17, 2001
- Commission on Outreach
September 6, 2001
- Commission on Student Affairs
October 18, 2001
November 1, 2001
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
October 22, 2001

Note: Commission on Research minutes from the October 24, 2001, meeting were withdrawn. The minutes will be revised and resubmitted to University Council at a later meeting.

5. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
October 11, 2001

6. Announcements

Dr. Steger commented that there is no truth to the rumor that no salary reductions are planned as a result of the state budget shortfall. The university is looking at different ways to deal with potential budget problems. In fact, administrators are working very hard to try to find a way to facilitate a salary increase, even though it may be modest.

7. Adjournment

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke
Executive Assistant to the President

jcd