

**University Council Minutes**  
**April 15, 2002**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall, 3:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Charles Steger and Minnis Ridenour (Presiding), Jeb Stewart (for Earving Blythe), Dennis Cochrane (for Lay Nam Chang), Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Margaret Zelinski (for Elizabeth Flanagan), Max Stephenson (for Paul Knox), Malcolm McPherson, Roger Avery (for Joseph Merola), Kim O'Rourke, Leonard Peters, Ray Smoot, Richard Sorensen, John Crunkilton (for Andy Swiger), Tom Tillar, Pat Hyer for Susan Angle, Stephen Boyle, Alan Armstrong (for Ed Fox), Ryan Hartman, Donald Hatfield (for Marge Murray), Edd Sewell, Susan Sumner, Jeryl Jones, Tim Pratt, Kamal Rojiani, Leon Geyer (for Wayne Durham), Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, Rebecca Crittenden, Jack Davis, Pat Devens, Bernard Feldman, John Hillison, Philip Huang, Suzanne Murrman, Delbert Jones, Randy Stith, Marquee King, Robert Kopera, Rachel Luken, Brian Montgomery, Christina Coukos, Susan Saunders

**Absent:** Peter Eyre, Melvin Gillespie, Eileen Hitchingham, Janet Johnson, Mark McNamee, Susan Angle, Bob Hendricks, Mike Koechlein, Mark Barrow, Wayne Durham, Dan Dolan, Althea Aschmann, Rodney Gaines, Kwaku Kankam, Jimmy Martin, Debbie Wilson, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Sharonda Meade, Clayton Smith

**Guests:** Jennifer Calhoun for Judicial Affairs/Student Affairs, Linwood Blizzard II for Black Organizations Council, Ellen Plummer for EOAA, Larry Moore for MAOP, and Teresa Wright (recorder).

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda with a change to the presentation order of resolutions. University Council Resolution UC2001-02A was moved to the top of the agenda, as Dr. Steger can preside over the meeting only until 4:00 p.m., at which time Mr. Ridenour will preside over the remainder of the meeting. The motion carried.

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 18, 2001.**

Dr. Steger noted that these minutes have been voted on and approved electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB (<http://intra.vt.edu/govern/>)

**3. New Business**

**University Council**

Resolution UC2001-02A

Resolution to Amend the University Council Constitution to Establish a Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Ben Dixon, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs and Ellen Plummer, Director of the Women's Center and Chair of EO/AA Committee introduced the resolution for first reading. Two supporting documents were distributed, one providing additional background, and the second providing the rationale for the proposed commission.

Faculty, staff and student members of both the EO/AA committee and the Advisory Council on Diversity and Multicultural Affairs have worked to help advance the goals of the University's Strategic Plan and the Diversity Plan. Diversity and Community are significant components of each of the four Strategic Goal Domains of the University's Strategic Plan: Research and Scholarship, Graduate Education, Undergraduate Education, and Outreach. The University Diversity Strategic Plan outlines five Strategic

Goals: increasing the diversity of faculty, students, and staff; improving the university climate; implementing a comprehensive diversity education and training program; developing recognition, accountability and responsibility systems on issues of diversity; and developing internal and external collaborations and partnerships aimed at extending diversity and multicultural education.

There is no official body in this university that has the overall responsibility to monitor the implementation of that plan. It is inappropriate for that plan to be monitored by an advisory status group. And therefore, one of the major responsibilities of the proposed commission would be to monitor our responsibilities with respect to that University plan.

The joint steering committee that developed the original proposal is taking a look at the version of proposal presented at this meeting (which had been the version passed by the Faculty Senate) with respect to membership and may come forward with an amendment in the second reading that will respond to some of the issues raised in the first reading. There may be other committees, both student and faculty, that are considering proposals to amend membership to this commission.

If you are planning to bring forth an amendment, this should be done by sending an e-mail note to Kim O'Rourke ([orourkek@vt.edu](mailto:orourkek@vt.edu)) a week before May 6 in order to be circulated and considered by Council members. A motion for the new commission will occur on May 6 and the floor will be opened for debate. Amendments must be introduced and voted on separately before a vote on the complete resolution. The Senates must approve University Council constitutional amendments before they are voted upon at University Council. The Faculty Senate passed the resolution brought today; the Staff Senate will vote on the resolution on April 18. The EOAA Committee and the Advisory Council on Diversity and Multicultural Affairs consent to their dissolution in this resolution.

There was lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of the proposed commission.

The second reading and vote will be on May 6 (last scheduled University Council meeting). The University Council constitution does not permit items to be carried from one academic year to the next. Amendments to the constitution of University Council require a 2/3 affirmative vote of all University Council members. There are 63 official members; there must be 42 affirmative votes in order to amend the council constitution. Members not eligible to vote are: President and Secretary of the Council.

At this point, Dr. Steger had to leave the meeting due to an unavoidable schedule conflict and Mr. Ridenour chaired the remainder of the meeting.

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA2001-02A

Resolution Concerning Length of Appointment for Faculty Representatives on the University Committees on Promotion and Tenure/Continued Appointment

Edd Sewell presented the resolution that seeks to increase the length of terms members serve on the committee. Two-year terms grant sufficient time to learn, but members rotate off before they are able to feel comfortable as full participants in the process. The current term is two years, and a three-year term is being proposed.

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA2001-02B

Resolution Concerning Promotion from Associate Professor to Professor

The Commission is recommending that language in the Faculty Handbook clarify that promotion to full professor requires excellence in TWO aspects of the university's mission, which has been the general practice even though it is not stated that way in the Handbook.

In addition, one of the two areas would now be research/scholarship/creative achievement in keeping with the university's ambitions of increasing its stature and recognition as a research university. A new paragraph would be added to the Handbook to make these points:

***The university's mission and commitment as a major research institution requires high accomplishment for promotion to professor. Faculty members must demonstrate excellence in two of the three aspects of the university's mission, one of which must be research, scholarship or creative achievement broadly defined as appropriate for the various disciplines, and reflecting the faculty member's assignment. Promotion to the rank of professor is contingent upon national or international recognition as an outstanding scholar and educator.***

#### **Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGSP2001-02B

Resolution for M.S. in Agricultural and Extension Education

Dr. Hillison presented the resolution. There has been a need for a M.S. program for many years. The primary clientele will be Virginia extension agents and agriculture education teachers. Extension agents who are hired without a Masters degree have only six years in which to complete an M.S. program. The need for distance-delivered learning is great because extension agents are spread across the state and are unable to enroll in a campus-based program while they are working. There are currently three courses being taught, and it is anticipated that there will be approximately twelve courses offered over the web or in other distance learning formats in a year.

#### **Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution CSA2001-02C

Resolution for Observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Ryan Hartman introduced this resolution and noted that the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday isn't confined to the celebration of the life of just one person, but recognizes the struggle that exists for equality here and around the world. This holiday is set apart from others in its importance, considering the amount of programming, discussions on equality, and events dealing with adversity, racism, and equality that occur.

The Student Government Association and the Commission on Student Affairs feel this holiday stands apart from the others in its importance in the University community. The Commission on Student Affairs obtained endorsement of the resolution by the Committee on Academic Support and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies before bringing it to the University Council. There was considerable discussion as to whether administrative issues dealing with programming and scheduling of the university calendar can be resolved in time to make necessary adjustments and for departments to plan accordingly. The resolution would go into effect for the academic year 2005-06 if it were passed.

There was also discussion of the potential impact that not approving the resolution could have on student/faculty recruitment and retention.

#### **Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution CSA2001-02D

Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life

There are three policy changes recommended by the Office of Judicial Affairs and approved by the Commission on Student Affairs, dealing with:

1. Record Retention Policy for disciplinary records
2. Misuse of ID Cards Policy
3. Advertising on Campus: Prohibiting Literature from Being Slipped Under the Doors of Residence Hall Rooms

**Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution CSA2001-02E

Resolution to Amend the Student Government Association Constitution

Ryan Hartman presented amendments to the Student Government Association constitution resolutions. There were neither questions nor discussion. Note: The Student Government Association constitution requires approval by two-thirds of University Council for any constitutional amendments.

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP2001-02A

Resolution Clarifying the University Core Curriculum Writing Intensive (WI) Requirement

Donald Hatfield presented resolution. There were neither questions nor discussion.

**4. Ongoing Business****Council accepted the following Commission minutes:**

- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs  
February 14, 2002  
March 21, 2002
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
January 18, 2002  
February 1, 2002  
March 15, 2002
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
January 25, 2002
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
February 6, 2002  
February 20, 2002  
March 20, 2002
- Commission on Outreach  
March 14, 2002
- Commission on Research  
January 23, 2002  
March 27, 2002
- Commission on Student Affairs  
February 7, 2002  
February 21, 2002  
March 14, 2002
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
February 11, 2002  
February 25, 2002  
March 11, 2002  
March 25, 2002
- Commission on University Support  
January 17, 2002  
February 14, 2002

March 14, 2002

**5. For Information Only**

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning:

January 24, 2002

February 28, 2002

March 13, 2002

**6. Announcements**

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

**ALL** University Council Members are asked to be present at the May 6, 2002, meeting to vote on an amendment to the Council Constitution creating a new Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity. If you will not be able to attend, please send a substitute who can vote on your behalf.

A two-thirds affirmative vote of University Council membership is required to amend the University Council constitution and also to amend the Student Government Association Constitution.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Ridenour adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Executive Assistant to the President

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