

University Council Minutes
March 24, 2003
3:00 — 5:00PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding for first portion of meeting), Mark McNamee (Presiding for remainder of meeting) Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Gregory Brown, Lay Nam Chang, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Roger Avery for Karen DePauw, Elizabeth Flanagan, Fain Rutherford for Mel Gillespie, Eileen Hitchingham, Paul Knox, Ed Henneke, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Len Peters, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Pat Ballard, Ruth Grene, Donald Hatfield, Pat Hyer for Sharon McCloskey, Brian Montgomery, Eric Pappas, Joe Pitt, Diane Zahm, Mark Barrow, JoAnn Emmel, Edd Sewell for Jeryl Jones, Don Orth, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, Imad Al-Qadi, Bernice Hausman, Phillip Huang, Althea Aschmann, Maxine Lyons, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Terry Kershaw, Randy Stith, Blair Price for Allan Bradley, Sterling Daniel, Andrew Jayne

Absent: Peter Eyre, Minnis Ridenour, Ray Smoot, Wayne Durham, Bernard Feldman, Elizabeth Gilboy, Peter Kennelly, Gloria Bird, Robert Smith, Mike Martin, Myron McClees, Melinda Pomeroy, Jan van Aardt, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Rachel Luken, Brant Snyder

Guests: Dwight Shelton

Dr. Steger 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 as presented. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 17, 2003.

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

President Steger announced that he will begin the meeting but will be leaving for a meeting in Richmond. Dr. McNamee will then assume the chairmanship of the Council. President Steger discussed with Council several items of interest. 1) This meeting of University Council is an extra meeting that was scheduled in order to give the Council time to complete their items of business. 2) Governor Warner has announced that there will be a salary increase of 2.25%. This increase will not be contingent on the State's revenues. 3) Bill Hurd of the Attorney General's Office returned a ruling of not constitutional on the Board of Visitors' resolution of March 10 regarding meetings on campus. The university will adhere to the policy that has always been followed, which states that any chartered organization is free to invite anyone to speak. 4) There have been numerous discussions with members of the Board, and a special meeting has been scheduled for April 6 to discuss the resolutions passed on March 10 and other business. During the March 17 University Council meeting, Dr. Pappas raised the issue of bringing forth to the Board of Visitors a resolution expressing the concerns of University Council. President Steger agreed to convey that resolution to the Board in whatever form it emerges. In order for Council to waive a second reading, it will be necessary to obtain an affirmative vote of three-fourths of members present. The other option would be to process this resolution in the usual two meetings.

3. New Business

University Council

Resolution UC2002-03C

University Council Statement Regarding Board of Visitors Actions

Dr. Pappas presented for first reading a revised version of the resolution that had been distributed electronically in advance of the meeting. He distributed copies of the revised version and reviewed changes. A motion was made, seconded and passed to withdraw the resolution sent electronically and resubmit the revised version. A motion was made to accept a friendly amendment to add "advisory councils and senates" to read: "WHEREAS, the university's shared governance consists of an array of committees, commissions, **advisory councils and senates.**" The motion to accept the friendly amendment was seconded and carried.

Dr. Steger departed for another meeting and Dr. McNamee assumed chair of the meeting.

A motion was made to waive the second reading and vote to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

In response to a question, it was determined that this resolution does not impede the ability of the Board of Visitors to act on situations they deem to be of urgent nature. There was considerable discussion concerning the language of the resolution, but it was concluded that there are no suggested changes to the language of the resolution. A motion was made and seconded to approve the presented resolution. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

4. Ongoing Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA2002-03B

Return-Service Obligation for Study-Research Leave

Dr. Diane Zahm stated that there was a question raised at the last University Council meeting about non-sequential leave. There has been no satisfactory clarification and it is recommended that the resolution be referred back to Commission on Faculty Affairs. Ms. O'Rourke stated that deferrals have a six-week time period from the date of the first reading in which the resolution will be accepted for a second reading. Thus, this resolution must be brought back for its second reading by the April 21 meeting.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CGSP2002-03B

Resolution for Procedures for Evaluation of the Progress of Graduate Students
(Update of Presidential Policy Memorandum No.1)

Dr. Ruth Grene presented the resolution for second reading. There was discussion of how this increases workload on faculty members and graduate committees. Dr. Grene reinforced

that this resolution provides flexibility for customized evaluations to meet the needs of the student, college or department. Research progress, grades, performance of teaching assistants, and general departmental citizenship are examples of evaluation items. The student's advisory committee would carry out this evaluation, and in cases where this is not possible, it would be appropriate for the department head or other appropriate committee to evaluate the students. Each college or department would determine an appropriate procedure and would forward this to the Graduate School to be on file. At the conclusion of the spring semester, the college or department would submit a summary report to the Graduate School to let them know that the evaluation had been carried out for each of the graduate students.

A motion was made to adopt this resolution. The motion was seconded. A concern was expressed about the wording "general departmental citizenship." This phrase was in the original Presidential Policy memorandum, resolution and it was speculated that it refers to being involved in the business of the department as would be appropriate for the student. Dr. Grene agreed this language is vague. Clarification of this term is imperative for it leaves the resolution open to individual interpretation. As a result of the discussion, Dr. Grene agreed the resolution should be referred back to the committee for clarification and resubmitted for a second reading. However, when a resolution is deferred, the second reading must occur within six weeks of the first reading. Because the first reading occurred on February 3, deferring the resolution was not an option. A vote was taken, and the resolution was defeated.

Resolution CGSP2002-03C

Resolution for Establishment of a Master of Natural Resources (MNR)
Degree Program in the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources

Dr. Ruth Grene presented the resolution for second reading. A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP2002-03B

Resolution to Establish a Temporary Freeze on Course Proposals to
The University Core Curriculum Committee

Dr. Donald Hatfield presented the resolution for second reading. Concerns were expressed about the impact a freeze would have on the writing intensive courses, which are now under consideration by CUSP. Dr. Hatfield explained that this resolution is intended to stop incremental changes and will not affect intensive writing, as it is considered exempt. A recommendation was made that this resolution be referred back to CUSP, citing the need for a systemic discussion of the university core and how it will be funded. A motion to defer the resolution was made, seconded, and passed with one opposing vote. It must be brought back to Council for second reading no later than April 21.

5. Council accepted the following Commission minutes:

The following Commission minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB (<http://intra.vt.edu/govern/>).

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
March 10, 2003

8. Adjournment

Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke
Executive Assistant to the President

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