University Council Minutes
March 1, 2004
3:00 — 5:00PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Bevlee Watford for Hassan Aref, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Greg Brown, Sheryl Ball for Lay Nam Chang, Landrum Cross, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, Eileen Hitchingham, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, David Ford for Mark McNamee, Bill Snizek for Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Ellen Plummer, Skipp Jubb for Sharron Quisenberry, Stuart Mease for Minnis Ridenour, Gerhardt Schurig, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Jean Brickey, Sam Easterling, Rosemary Goss, Rakesh Kapania, Doris Kincade, Vivek Mehta, Joe Pitt, Susan Anderson, Mark Barrow, JoAnn Emmel, Jack Cranford, Kathleen Jones, Imad Al-Qadi, Marion Ehrich, Hans Rott, Bernice Hausman, Philip Huang, Peter Kennelly, Althea Aschmann, Sue Ellen Crocker, Maxine Lyons, Jimmy Martin, Randy Stith, Antionette Stroter, Allan Bradley, Puraj Patel, Sumeet Bagai, David Ford, Pat Hyer, Dwight Shelton

Absent: James Blair, Elizabeth Flanagan, Elaine Matuszek, Richard Ashley, Don Orth, Robert Tracy, Gloria Bird, James Berkson, Mike Martin, Keniah Robinson, Terry Kershaw, Pankaj Gupta, Meredith Katz, Elaine Giuliani, Rebecca Stover, Brant Snyder

Guests: Dwight Shelton, John Dooley

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 as presented. The motion carried.


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/). (Note: The University Council meeting scheduled for February 16, 2004 was cancelled for lack of action items.)

3. New Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA2003-04A
Resolution for Committee Recommendations for Promotion and/or Tenure

Dr. Sam Easterling presented the resolution for first reading. The purpose of the resolution is to specify that a two-thirds vote is required for a positive committee recommendation of the college and university-level committees involved in deciding on promotion and/or tenure. This division of vote shall also be forward and made available to the committee members as well as the administrator at the subsequent level and will remain confidential. This revised standard will also be reflected in the Faculty Handbook. Further discussion occurred after the presentation of CFA 2003-04D. See below.

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2003-04C
Resolution for Composition of University-level Promotion & Tenure Committee
Dr. Sam Easterling presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution specifies the membership of the university promotion and tenure committee. It is felt that with the restructuring of the university, each college should have one committee and will include one faculty member at large. (Prior to the re-structuring, one of the colleges had two representatives because of its large size.) The Faculty Senate shall nominate two faculty members for the at-large appointment, from which the provost will select one.

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**

Resolution CFA 2003-04D

Resolution for Revision of Section 2.8.4 on Criteria for Promotion and Tenure

Dr. Sam Easterling presented the resolution for first reading. The purpose of this resolution is to clarify section 2.8.4 of the Faculty Handbook. Language has been changed to clarify tenure and promotion expectations from assistant professor to associate professor, and promotion expectations from associate professor to professor.

There was considerable discussion about each of these resolutions, their effective date, and several suggestions were made. Dr. Easterling will take all suggestions back to the Commission for consideration prior to the second reading at University Council.

With regard to Resolution CFA 2003-04A, Dr. Sorensen raised a point of order, stating that a standing committee that falls under University Council would be governed by University Council’s Constitution and By-laws as to what constitutes a majority. If, however, the University Promotion and Tenure Committee is determined not to be a standing committee under University Council (i.e., it is not named in the University Council By-Laws) then there may be alternate means for handling this change in the minimum votes required for a positive recommendation other than changing the Faculty Handbook, which is currently silent on the matter. Kim O’Rourke will research these matters by reviewing the University Council Constitution and By-Laws, reviewing Sturgis Code of Parliamentary Procedure, and conferring with general counsel.

4. **Announcement of approval and posting of Commission minutes**

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web. Note that the purpose of voting on Commission minutes is to accept them for filing. University Council By-laws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs
  November 19, 2003

- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
  February, 9, 2004

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
  January 23, 2004

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
  January 21, 2004
  February 4, 2004

- Commission on Research
January 21, 2004

- Commission on Student Affairs
  January 22, 2004
  February 5, 2004

- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
  February 9, 2004

8. **For Information Only**

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
January 29, 2004

9. **Discussion Items**

Dr. Steger briefly updated the Council on developments in the General Assembly session and stated that the House, Senate and Governor have submitted their budget proposals. The conferees for the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees are now being named and the procedure for ironing out budget details will begin.

Dr. Steger has also released a statement that is on the Virginia Tech homepage regarding the alleged behavior of the student athletes who were arrested recently. There are policies and guidelines pertaining to the conduct of student athletes, and the administration of Virginia Tech will follow them. The matter is currently with the police and the courts. However, behavior such as what is alleged to have occurred is not condoned by the university.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O Rourke
Executive Assistant to the President

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