

**University Council Minutes**  
**April 4, 2005**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Hassan Aref, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Sheryl Ball for Lay Nam Chang, Lanny Cross, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, James Hyatt, Michael Kelley, Jack Davis for Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Mark McNamee, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, David Travis, Pat Hyer for Dawn Barnes, Jean Brickey, Klaus Elgert, Virginia Fowler, Grant Otto, Marilyn Kershaw for Ray Plaza, Susanna Rinehart, Jim Weaver, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kathleen Jones, Mark Anderson, Marion Ehrich, Bernice Hausman, Muzzo Uysal, Sue Ellen Crocker, Edward Lener, Sumeet Bagai, Brandon Bull, Melinda Cep, Matt Vepraskas, James Tyger for Devin Weller

**Absent:** Brad Fenwick, Judith Shrum, Richard Ashley, JoAnn Emmel, Don Orth, James Berkson, Rakesh Kapania, Peter Kennelly, Representative for Hans Rott, John Jay Carter, Donna Hamm (with notice), Terry Kershaw, Maxine Lyons, Lori Anne Sheppard (with notice), Myrna Callison, Yvette Quintela, Antoinette Stroter, Maya Newhagen

**Guests:** Sam Easterling, John Hillison

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:04 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 21, 2005**

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://www.governance.vt.edu>).

**3. New Business**

**Commission on Student Affairs**

Resolution CSA 2004-05C

Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life

Mr. Grant Otto introduced the resolution for first reading. Ms. Frances Keene of Judicial Affairs explained the three major points of the resolution as follows:

**I. University Judicial Procedures**

This amendment applies only to cases in which the sanctions would be less severe than deferred suspension, suspension, or dismissal. In this situation, a student may request a formal hearing within seven business days after notification of sanction. If he/she does not do so, such inaction will be taken as agreement with the action, and the student will forfeit his/her right to appeal the administrative action decision.

**II. Stalking Policy**

This section emphasizes the importance of addressing unwanted, repeated contact. Across the nation, institutions have adopted this sort of policy.

### **III. Inclusion of a Formal Organization Event Definition for Student Organizations**

By direction of Dr. Cross, Vice President for Student Affairs, a task force was appointed to examine policies and procedures related to the adjudication of student organizations. It was determined that there must be clear criteria for student organizations so that members will understand when their organization may be accountable for the conduct of individuals. There are five criteria for an organization's potential responsibility. Existence of two of the five criteria may result in accountability by the organization. This does not mean they are automatically responsible for any alleged misconduct. Through the judicial process, it will determine whether a policy was violated by the organization. This part of the resolution formalizes practices of Judicial Affairs over the last year.

In response to a question, Ms. Keene explained that the "*Virginia Tech Principles of Community*" is not viewed by Judicial Affairs as a policy that is enforceable under the Student Code of Conduct as it currently exists. Misconduct such as abuse (verbal or non-verbal assault), damage, destruction or battery is already addressed under that code. If the organization is supporting, facilitating, or participating in conduct that may create a hostile environment, they could potentially be accountable. There are many variables that must be taken into consideration, and each case will be addressed on an individual basis.

It was noted that some of the members of the Commission on Student Affairs were concerned with the criterion about six or more members of an organization being involved in an event. The issue is whether six is an appropriate number for all organizations.

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

Resolution CGSP 2004-05B

Resolution to Amend University Council By-Laws to Increase the Membership of the University Library Committee

Dr. Klaus Elgert introduced the resolution for first reading. Dean Hitchingham explained that the proposal would facilitate communication between the University Library Committee and the three most relevant commissions in two ways. First, the by-laws would be amended to show the University Library Committee also reporting to the Commission on Research (COR) in addition to CUSP and CGSP. Second, the three library representatives who have positions on the relevant commissions would now be members of the University Library Committee. This is a net addition of two members to the Committee since the Dean of the Libraries is already an ex officio member of both the Committee and CGSP.

#### **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2004-05B

Academic Distinction for Agriculture Technology

Dr. Virginia Fowler introduced the resolution for first reading.

#### **University Council**

Resolution UC 2004-05A

Resolution to Amend the University Council Constitution and By-laws

To Accommodate Organizational and Administrative Changes of the University

Dr. Sam Easterling introduced the resolution for first reading. The resolution was reviewed and changes to membership were explained. A two-thirds affirmative vote of all members of the Council will be required to pass this resolution at the next meeting.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CUSP 2004-05A

Resolution to Approve Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Fowler presented the resolution for second reading. After comments by Drs. Hiller and McNamee, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

#### **5. Announcement of Approval and Posting of Commission Minutes**

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>). 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  
February 1, 2005
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
March 21, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
March 2, 2005
- Commission on Research  
February 9, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs  
March 17, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
February 14, 2005

#### **6. Discussion**

Dr. Steger updated the Council on the status of the restructuring bill.

Following up on the earlier discussion of the "Principles of Community," Dr. Dixon requested a clarification of the status of the Principles at the next meeting.

#### **7. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke  
Chief of Staff, President's Office

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