

University Council Minutes
April 18, 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, Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Eileen Hitchingham, Lisa Wilkes for James Hyatt, Michael Kelley, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, 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, Ray Plaza, Susanna Rinehart, Judith Shrum, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Jack Cranford, JoAnn Emmel, Richard Goff, Kathleen Jones, Don Orth, Mark Anderson, James Berkson, Marion Ehrich, Bernice Hausman, Peter Kennelly, Muzzo Uysal, Sue Ellen Crocker, Edward Lener, Maxine Lyons, Lori Anne Sheppard, Myrna Callison, Antoinette Stroter, Sumeet Bagai, Brandon Bull, Melinda Cep, Lauren Good for Maya Newhagen, Matt Vepraskas, Devin Weller

Absent: Mark McNamee, Grant Otto, Jim Weaver, Rakesh Kapania (with notice), representative for Hans Rott, John Jay Carter, Donna Hamm (with notice), Terry Kershaw, Therese Lovegreen, Yvette Quintela,

Guests: Sam Easterling, Tom Walker, Frances Keene, Kay Heidbreder

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made to amend the agenda to allow for the first reading of the Commission on Student Affairs Resolution 2004-05D. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was then made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 4, 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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Resolution CEOD 2004-05A

Policy 1025 Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy

Mr. Ray Plaza introduced the resolution for first reading. In response to discussion of the term "gender" substituting for the term "sex," Kay Heidbreder for Legal Counsel explained that "sex" was the term stated in the law in 1972. However, many institutions are now using the term "gender" in lieu of sex. The courts do not make a distinction and it is the preference of the university that determines the term used. The Principles of Community adopted by the Board of Visitors in their March 14, 2005 meeting did use

“gender” instead of “sex.” It is the recommendation of Legal Counsel to use “gender” in order to be consistent. Mr. Plaza stated that the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity will have another meeting before the second reading of this resolution and will consider the terms.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2004-05C

Resolution for Revision to Presidential Policy Memorandum 196,
Course Withdrawal Policy for Undergraduates

Dr. Ginny Fowler introduced the resolution for first reading. The resolution addresses perceived problems with the current withdrawal policy. Tom Walker was introduced to further explain that this procedure gives students more time to clear any registration problems.

Commission on Student Affairs

Resolution CSA 2004-05D

Resolution Amending the Constitution of the
Virginia Tech Student Government Association

Mr. Sumeet Bagai distributed the resolution for first reading. SGA has grown significantly, and therefore, it was necessary to critically review some of their practices and procedures. They felt a need to amend their constitution to keep it consistent with what they do but also make necessary changes to legislative bodies and the executive committee. Changes to the constitution require a three-fourths affirmative vote of the voting members of the Student Government Association. These changes did pass SGA by the necessary vote percentage and passed in referendum to the student body and the Commission on Student Affairs. The amendment to the SGA Constitution will become effective upon approval (majority of those voting) of University Council. The actual constitution and summary will be sent to UC members. There are four major areas where changes were made:

1. Function of SGA Secretary
 - a. Currently responsible for taking Senate and Executive minutes.
 - b. Adds the responsibility of taking minutes at Student House meetings
2. Function of the Vice President
 - a. Currently, the Vice President presides over the Student Senate
 - b. Changes the Vice President's role to be primarily executive
 - c. Responsible for working with the speakers of both legislative houses in creating reports on legislative accomplishments to be distributed to other groups in the university governance system
3. Creation of the Speaker of the Senate
 - a. Creates a Speaker of the Senate to preside over Senate meetings and represent the interests of the Senate on the executive committee
 - b. Parallels the function of the Speaker of the House
 - c. Elected from the old senate at the last meeting before Inauguration (also implemented for the Speaker of the House)
 - d. Eliminates the position of President Pro Tempore

- e. Speaker of the Senate assumes all of the previous responsibilities that the Vice President had for the Student Senate
4. Changes in the function of the Judicial Branch and elimination of the Elections and Credentials Committee
- a. Current responsibilities of the Elections and Credentials committee are placed under the responsibilities of the Judicial Branch.
 - b. Checks and balances maintained

4. Old Business

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 second reading and reviewed the proposed amendments to the by-laws and the reporting structure. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion carried.

Commission on Student Affairs

Resolution CSA 2004-05C

Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life

Ms. Frances Keene of Judicial Affairs was available for questions and explanations of points of concern. A motion was made to accept the resolution. Mr. Devin Weller proposed an amendment to section "e" under "Criteria for Determining an Organization Event." The proposed amendment would read, "The event involves six or more members of the organization; should the organization be composed of more than 30 members, this number will increase to approximately 20 percent of the organization's membership, at the discretion of the Judicial Committee." The proposed amendment was seconded. Following discussion, Ms. Keene explained that the number is set at six to be a standard, and she offered to speak to student groups to help them understand the intent of the number.

The amendment was on the floor, the question called, and a vote taken. The amendment was defeated. Dr. Steger encouraged discussion of further modification in the future to reach a more agreeable number or standard. Judicial Affairs is willing to address any student group to explain this resolution. It is meant to clarify and amendments may be made in the future.

The original motion was seconded and carried.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2004-05B

Academic Distinction for Agriculture Technology

Dr. Virginia Fowler introduced the resolution for second reading. A motion was made, seconded and carried with one vote in opposition.

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 second reading and briefly reviewed changes to the membership. A motion was made and seconded. A two-thirds affirmative vote of all members of the Council is required to pass this resolution, and abstentions have the effect of an opposing vote. The resolution passed with one vote in opposition and one abstention.

5. Announcement of Acceptance 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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity
March 28, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
March 16, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
March 17, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs
March 3, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
March 14, 2005
March 28, 2005

6. For Information Only

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
March 17, 2005

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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