

**University Council Minutes**  
**May 2, 2005**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Hassan Aref, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Landrum Cross, Karen DePauw, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Michael Kelly, 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, Dawn Barnes, Jean Brickey, Klaus Elgert, Virginia Fowler, Ray Plaza, Susanna Rinehart, Judith Shrum, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Jack Cranford, JoAnn Emmel, Richard Goff, Rakesh Kapania, Mark Anderson, Marion Ehrich, Bernice Hausman, Peter Kennelly, Sue Ellen Crocker, Donna Hamm, Edward Lener, Lori Anne Sheppard, Theresa Lovegreen, Antionette Stroter, Sumeet Bagai, Brandon Bull, Melinda Cep, Lauren Good for Maya Newhagen, Matt Vepraskas, Devin Weller

**Absent:** Ben Dixon, David Ford, James Hyatt, Grant Otto, Jim Weaver, Kathleen Jones, Don Orth, James Berkson, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, John Jay Carter, Terry Kershaw, Maxine Lyons, Myrna Callison, Yvette Quintela

**Guests:** Pat Hyer, April Myers, Dhaval Shah

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.

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 6, 2004**

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 2004-05E

Resolution Amending the Membership of the Commission on Student Affairs

Mr. Bagai asked that the University Council approve a request for first reading and action on Resolution CSA 2004-05E by a \_ affirmative vote of the membership present. The commission would like for this change to take effect immediately in order to have accurate rosters for the fall semester. Dr. Steger reminded the Council that this is the last meeting of the year, and if this resolution is not acted on the process will have to start over at the first meeting next year. A motion was made and seconded for first reading and action at this meeting. The motion passed with one vote in opposition. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the Commission on Student Affairs Resolution CSA 2004-05E. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

##### **Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity**

Resolution CEOD 2004-05A

Policy 1025 Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Prevention

Mr. Plaza presented the resolution for second reading. In response to a request made at the May 3, 2005, meeting, the commission reviewed the use of the term "gender" in lieu of sex, and decided to use the term "gender" for the following reasons:

1. The interpretation of Legal Counsel
2. The adoption of language consistent with the Virginia Tech Principles of Community
3. More peer institutions are using the term "gender"
4. The term "gender" is becoming much more of an industry standard
5. The term "gender" is more inclusive than the term "sex"

It was suggested by a member of Council that if the term "gender" is more inclusive than the term "sex," a clarification needs to be made as to whether this is a policy change or just a substitution of terms. Dr. Steger clarified that because there is no legal distinction between the two terms, this is not a policy change.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried, with one abstention.

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

Resolution CSA 2004-05D

Resolution Amending the Constitution of the Virginia Tech Student Government Association

Mr. Bagai introduced the resolution for second reading. With no discussion, the motion was seconded and carried.

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

Resolution CUSP 2004-05C

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

Dr. Fowler introduced the resolution for second reading. A motion was made and seconded.

In response to a question, Dr. Fowler indicated that the commission had considered moving the withdrawal period back a week or two, but decided against it. The subcommittee decided that it is important to give the students enough time close to the end of the semester to drop the course. Another concern brought forth was the impact of the resolution on classes that involve group work and projects. Dr. Fowler noted that the commission had not considered this situation. 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 A/P Faculty Affairs  
February 9, 2005
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs  
March 24, 2005
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
April 11, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs  
April 8, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies  
April 6, 2005
- Commission on Research  
March 16, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
April 11, 2005  
April 25, 2005

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.