

University Council Minutes
February 6, 2006
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Rodd Hall for Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Eileen Hitchingham, James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kurt Krause, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Hap Bonham for Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Jean Brickey, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, James Tyger for Kristina Perry, Susanna Rinehart

Absent: Ben Dixon, John Dooley (with notice), Kevin McDonald, Charles Steger, Richard Ashley, Kathleen Jones, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Hans Rott, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Chris Miller, Devin Weller, Jessie Jennifer, Navin Manjooran

Guests: Pat Hyer, Mike Vorster, Mary Ann Lewis, Eileen Crist, Joan Marie, John Randolph, Carolyn Rude, Teresa Wright

Dr. McNamee called the meeting to order at 3:02 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 5, 2005

Dr. McNamee 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 Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06D

Resolution for Establishment of a Ph.D in Architecture and Design Research Degree Proposal in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06E

Resolution for Establishment of a Ph.D in Planning, Governance & Globalization Degree
Proposal in the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

Dr. Scott Case presented both resolutions (CGSP 2005-06D and CGSP 2005-06E) for first reading.

Dr. John Randolph reviewed each resolution. Both degrees are derived from the existing Ph.D program, Environmental Design and Planning (EDP). The Environmental Design Planning program has grown significantly and the title no longer accurately represents the true program. The proposal is to establish two new programs from the existing one.

It is anticipated that a greater number of prospective students will be attracted by the more accurate program descriptions. The current EDP program will continue until students in that program have graduated. New students will enroll in either of the two new programs.

Both of the proposed degrees will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Visitors in their March meeting. Should they be approved, they will then be submitted to the State Council on Higher Education for final approval.

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06F

Resolution to Establish a Course Withdrawal Policy for Graduate Students

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for first reading.

Dr. Karen DePauw explained that while the university has an established policy allowing undergraduate students to formally request credit hours to be designated as “withdrawn” (W), there is no policy allowing graduate students this same option. This resolution will allow course withdrawal for graduate students under certain specified terms to withdraw from a course. The transcript will reflect this by a “WG” (withdrawal graduate). There is no limit set as to the maximum withdraw credits or number of occurrences allowed. The “WG” notation will remain on the transcript, and is an honest reflection of academic performance, or the lack thereof. This notation also provides proof of dates for course enrollment. To alleviate abuse of this policy, permission must be granted in each instance from both the graduate school and from the equivalent of the department head.

Commission on University Support

Resolution CUS 2005-06A

Resolution for Change in Membership of the Transportation and Parking Committee

Dr. Jan Helge Bohn presented the resolution for first reading and reviewed the proposed change in membership of the Transportation and Parking Committee.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2005-06B

Resolution to Approve New Degree, "Humanities, Science and Environment,"
Bachelor of Arts from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dr. Bob Wheeler presented and reviewed the resolution for first reading.

4. Old Business

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06B

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Rhetoric and Writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously. This resolution will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for approval and then the State Council on Higher Education.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies and Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06C and CUSP 2005-06A

Resolution for the Establishment of a School of Construction at Virginia Tech

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously. This resolution will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for approval and then the State Council on Higher Education.

In response to a question, Dr. Vorster stated will be structured between College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering.

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
November 10, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
December 1, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
November 2, 2005
November 16, 2005
December 7, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
December 8, 2005
- Commission on Research
October 5, 2005
November 9, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs
November 3, 2005
November 17, 2005
December 1, 2005
- Commission on University Support
November 17, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
November 14, 2005
November 28, 2005
December 12, 2005

6. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
December 1, 2005

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.