

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

Present: Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, Brad Fenwick, Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Michael Kelly, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Hap Bonham for Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Sue Ellen Crocker for Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Pat Hyer for Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Amy Nelson for Kathleen Jones, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Mark Anderson, Elaine Scott for Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Leon Geyer, Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, James Tyger for Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Sarah Saxton for Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart, Navin Manjoran

Absent: Charles Steger (with notice), Ben Dixon (with notice), John Dooley (with notice), David Ford (with notice), Zenobia Hikes (with notice), James Hyatt (with notice), Kevin McDonald, Charles Steger (with notice), Judy Alford (with notice), Joan Moore, Richard Ashley, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Chris Thomas (with notice), James Berkson, Hans Rott, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Jennifer Jessie

Guests: Edd Sewell, Ken Eriksson, Sheryl Ball, Teresa Wright

In President Steger's absence, Dr. McNamee called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present. He announced that there are only two remaining scheduled meetings left in this academic year: April 17 and May 1. The next meeting will be the last opportunity for new business to be introduced, and old business must be concluded at the May 1 meeting.

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 February 20, 2006

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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Resolution CEOD 2005-06A

Resolution on Reporting Diversity-Related Activities on Faculty Activity Reports (FARs)

Dr. Pat Hyer presented the resolution for first reading on behalf of Ray Plaza. This resolution is to add diversity accomplishments as part of the annual Faculty Activity Reports (FARs). Three of the eight colleges already require reporting of this information. Diversity is also one of the core competencies listed as a requirement in evaluations for classified staff, and is a component of the promotion and tenure dossiers. The resolution does not assign an evaluation value to

these activities on the report, but encourages vice-presidents, department heads and deans to find ways to collect and report information.

There was discussion about enforcing accountability for these activities with more specific requirements. Conversely, several people spoke in support of the need to maintain flexibility by keeping the requirements broad.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06A

Resolution for Policy on Tenure Clock Extensions

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. This is a proposed modification to the existing policy on probationary period extensions for tenure-track (and continued appointment track) faculty members. This resolution contains examples of situations to which this policy might apply, but the list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06B

Resolution for Policy on Modified Duties

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. The proposed new policy would enable workload accommodations to be negotiated for tenured or tenure-track faculty members with extenuating circumstances. No formal policy currently exists, although some department heads have informally negotiated workload accommodations.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06C

Resolution for Composition of Committees for Promotion and Tenure Evaluation

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. The goal of this resolution is to guard against undue influence by any one person in shaping the debate or outcome of a promotion and tenure case.

Several Council members conveyed they would like time to review this resolution with department heads and faculty representatives before voting.

A request was made and granted to defer this resolution until the May 1 meeting in order for the Commission on Faculty Affairs, the Faculty Senate, and others to further consider the resolution. Comments about the resolution should be directed to Kerry Redican.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06D

Resolution for Valid Issues for Faculty Grievances

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. The purpose of the policy revision is to clarify what constitutes a grievable issue. Dr. Redican emphasized that with regard to promotion and tenure, this resolution addresses procedural violations rather than the merits of the case.

If at the April 17 meeting it is determined that further discussion is needed, then the resolution may be deferred to May 1.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06E

Resolution for Charge and Membership of the Faculty Senate Committee on Reconciliation

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for first reading. It was noted that this resolution is linked to CFA 2005-06D and thus must be treated in the same way with regard to deferrals, etc.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06G

Resolution for Establishment of the Masters of Agricultural and Life Sciences Degree

Dr. Scott Case presented for first reading the resolution for an on-line, non-thesis master's degree. Dr. Timothy Mack was available for questions. In response to a question, he defined a place-bound learner as someone who cannot locate to campus. One example is a person who is employed full-time and would like a master's degree to help with their job performance and merits.

4. 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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
February 8, 2006
- Commission on Classified Staff Affairs
January 12, 2006
February 9, 2006
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
February 27, 2006
March 13, 2006
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 3, 2006
February 17, 2006
March 17, 2006
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
January 18, 2006
February 1, 2006
February 15, 2006
March 1, 2006

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
February 9, 2006
March 16, 2006
- Commission on Research
December 7, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs
February 2, 2006
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
February 13, 2006
February 27, 2006
March 13, 2006
- Commission on University Support
January 19, 2006
February 16, 2006

5. For Information Only

Minutes of University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
January 26, 2006
March 2, 2006

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.