

University Council Minutes
April 17, 2006
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Zenobia Hikes, Eileen Hitchingham, James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kurt Krause, Mark McNamee, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Roger Avery for Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Brian Mihalik for Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Christa Thomas for Jean Brickey, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Amy Nelson for Kathleen Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Leon Geyer, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, Susanna Rinehart

Absent: Ben Dixon, Paul Knox, Kevin McDonald, Richard Ashley, Jean Brickey, James Berkson, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Ed McPherson, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsey Leisher, Kristina Perry, Sarah Saxton, James Tyger, Jennifer Jessie, Navin Manjooran

Guests: Frances Keene, Pat Hyer, Mike Vorster, Kay Heidbreder, Teresa Wright

President Steger 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 April 3, 2006

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 2005-06A

Resolution for Changes to University Policies for Student Life

Ms. Jory Zmuda Ruscio introduced Frances Keene, Director of Judicial Affairs. Ms. Keene reviewed the three points of the resolution, which was brought before University Council for first reading.

1. Information may be shared among Judicial Affairs, and both the Undergraduate and Graduate Honor Systems. The University Judicial System and the Honor Systems are separate entities. They report through different areas of the university and deal with different issues. The purpose of this resolution is to give both offices a vehicle by which to share information when they have cases in common. This allows the system to better address student behavior. This policy clarifies to the student that information may be

shared as appropriate. Kay Heidbreder, University Legal Counsel, confirmed that sharing information in this manner on a need-to-know basis does not violate the Buckley Amendment.

2. Currently, the Office of Judicial Affairs does not have the purview to withhold a student's degree if they are involved in serious misconduct at the end of their graduating year. However, the Virginia Tech Honor System does have the authority to withhold academic degrees until a student comes into compliance with sanctions.

Kay Heidbreder, University Legal Counsel, reported that Virginia Tech legally reserves the right to look at student behavior on and off campus. This policy reinforces the right to take action on misconduct. Academic degrees can be withheld for a period of time because of behavior that is incompatible with the disciplinary standards of the university, and until the student comes into compliance with sanctions.

Dr. Scott Case stated that the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies has oversight responsibility of the Graduate Honor System. Since this resolution affects the honor system, he feels that CGSP should have the opportunity to review this resolution before voting by University Council. Dr. Bob Wheeler made a parallel request on behalf of CUSP. Ms. Keene responded that the Graduate and Undergraduate Systems are both part of University Student Life programs and those student life policies are traditionally managed by the division of Student Affairs. Changes to University Student Life policies have historically gone through Student Affairs as they include graduate and undergraduate student representatives.

Dean DePauw expressed concern that parts of this resolution may be in conflict with Graduate Honor System Constitution and further review is necessary.

3. The reciprocity statement for jurisdiction of off-campus misconduct is to convey to all students across the Commonwealth of Virginia that misconduct by themselves as well as their visitors from other institutions will not be tolerated.

Since there is only one more University Council meeting for this academic year, both CGSP and CUSP are encouraged to review this resolution and provide their input to Frances Keene.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution to Approve new Degree "Construction Engineering and Management"
Bachelor of Science from the College of Engineering

Dr. Bob Wheeler presented the resolution for first reading. The proposed degree will involve faculty from both the College of Engineering and the school of construction.

Dean Richard Sorensen stated that the Pamplin College of Business fully supports the proposed degree. Dean Benson added that the College of Engineering does as well.

4. Old Business

Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Resolution CEOD 2005-06A

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

Mr. Ray Plaza presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. Ms. Susanna Rinehart, President of Faculty Senate, reported that there are concerns by members of Faculty Senate on implementing and evaluating specifics. There will still need to be ongoing conversations about enforcing accountability and specific requirements.

An amendment was proposed to make the language on the faculty activity report relative to the reporting of diversity-related accomplishments consistent with the language in the remainder of the FAR. Another amendment was proposed to change the term “*unit mission*” to “*university’s mission*.” Mr. Plaza accepted both amendments.

There was a motion to accept the resolution with the two amendments. The motion was seconded and the resolution as amended passed unanimously.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06A

Resolution for Policy on Tenure Clock Extensions

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. An amendment was proposed to add language to clarify beyond any doubt that the policy also applies to faculty members on the continued appointment track.

Another amendment was proposed to specify automatic grant of requests to stop the clock upon request. Dr. Redican accepted both amendments.

A motion was made to accept the resolution with these two amendments. The motion was seconded, and the resolution as amended passed unanimously.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06B

Resolution for Policy on Modified Duties

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. Dr. Steger commented that cost estimates have been gathered and will be presented to the Board of Visitors. He stated for the record that if actual costs differ dramatically from the estimates, this resolution may need to be revisited.

The motion to adopt this resolution was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06C

Resolution for Composition of Committees for Promotion and Tenure Evaluation

Dr. Kerry Redican withdrew this resolution before it was presented for second reading. Further discussion and review is needed before bringing this resolution before University Council for consideration. [Note: Withdrawn resolutions are not posted on the web.]

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06D

Resolution for Valid Issues for Faculty Grievances

Dr. Kerry Redican presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval.

Dr. Leon Geyer reported that if the language remains as it is, violations of tenure procedures are grievable under the current interpretation of the handbook. The proposed change is to codify practice. The interpretation that procedural violations are grievable has been made by the committee that has the responsibility to determine if an issue is grievable (President of the Faculty Senate, the Chair of Faculty Review Committee and the Chair of Reconciliation).

There were discussions of varied interpretations what is considered grievable. Dean Benson indicated that he had a statement from the engineering department heads opposing the resolution. Additionally, Deans Knox and Quisenberry, who could not be present, had asked him to share their concerns. It was suggested that there are may be alternative approaches to the resolution that would better address key issues and further discussion is needed.

On behalf of the Commission on Faculty Affairs, Dr. Redican requested that this resolution be withdrawn in order to further review other approaches. It was withdrawn with the general consent of University Council. [Note: Withdrawn resolutions are not posted on the web.]

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2005-06E

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

As this resolution is linked to the withdrawn CFA Resolution 2005-06D, Dr. Redican on behalf of CFA withdrew this resolution as well before it was presented for second reading. [Note: Withdrawn resolutions are not posted on the web.]

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06G

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

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made motion for approval. The motion was seconded and 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 Research
February 8, 2006
- Commission on Student Affairs
February 16, 2006
March 2, 2006
March 23, 2006
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
January 23, 2006

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.