

University Council Minutes
November 14, 2005
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Judy Lilly for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, Rodd Hall for Brad Fenwick, Janice LaForce for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Don Kenney for Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt Michael Kelly, Bob Schubert for Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Kevin McDonald, Mark McNamee, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Gerhardt Schurig, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Scott Case, Mike Akers for Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Tom Walker for Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kathleen Jones, Kamal Rojiani, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Laura Gillman, Edward Lener, Ed McPherson, Kerry Wood, Kristina Perry, Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart, Jennifer Jessie, Navin Manjooran

Absent: Richard Benson, John Dooley (with notice), Sharron Quisenberry, Kerry Redican, Richard Ashley, Fabrice Teulon, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm, David Jones, Therese Lovegreen, Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, Swamy Siddaramappa, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsay Leisher, Chris Miller

Guests: Pat Hyer, Lawrence Grossman, Teresa Wright

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. Discussion Higher Education Restructuring Act

Dr. Steger reported on a meeting he had with Governor Warner. The restructuring management agreement is currently being revised. Upon signature of the Governor, the General Assembly will then vote.

We will emerge with a significant increase in the autonomy to operate the university and this is expected to translate into savings that can be reinvested into the university's core mission.

3. Discussion of Recent Crimes Affecting VT Students

The recent incident which resulted in the death of a student off campus is still under investigation. The police department is working aggressively and there is encouraging progress related to this investigation.

On a separate matter, the university also experienced another incident of racially motivated graffiti. Four individuals were involved (two Virginia Tech students and two non-Virginia Tech students). The visitors have been banned from campus and the Virginia Tech students will be dealt with appropriately through our judicial system. Additionally, university officials and campus police will be meeting with the Commonwealth Attorney to explore whether legal action can be taken.

Mr. Kurt Krause informed the Council that there is a Campus Crime Task Force. One goal of the task force is to form a network with other schools in Virginia and several nearby states in order to share information when a student from one campus violates student life policies on another campus in the network. Mr. Krause announced the upcoming Campus Climate Checkup meeting and encouraged everyone to attend.

Ms. Susanna Rinehart also announced that several safe zone stickers in the history department have been vandalized. Mr. Krause responded that the stickers will be covered in a finish that is harder to deface.

4. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 24, 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>).

5. New Business

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06A

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis in the College of Natural Resources

Dr. Scott Case introduced the resolution for first reading. In response to a question, Dr. Laurence "Larry" Grossman stated that there will not be a need for new resources. The plan is to use graduate assistantships re-allocated within the college to help support the doctoral program. Eventually, the funding for the graduate research assistantships will come from external grants.

6. 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
October 7, 2005
- Commission on Equal Opportunity & Diversity
September 26, 2005
October 3, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
October 6, 2005
October 21, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
October 5, 2005
October 19, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
October 13, 2005
- Commission on Research

September 14, 2005

- Commission on Student Affairs
October 6, 2005

7. For Information Only

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
October 6, 2005

8. Update on Budget Requests and Explanation of Southside Initiative

Dr. Steger updated the Council on the status of budget requests with the current governor. Once the governor-elect takes office, we will be working with him to make sure we are well represented.

In response to a question, Dr. Steger explained the Southside Initiative and how it relates to Virginia Tech. Money from the sale of the hospital in Martinsville was put into the Harvest Foundation with the stipulation that the money be spent to help the community. Former Governor Baliles chairs a commission that recently completed a study to look at what can be done to help the economy of that region, which has been dependent upon textiles, furniture, tobacco, and coal. They have experienced significant job loss and are in serious economic condition. The study concluded that one of the key things that can be done is to start a four-year institution to help retrain the workforce. A proposal for an accelerated curriculum was formulated. The Harvest Foundation has agreed to fund \$50 million for this endeavor. Many people have encouraged Virginia Tech to adopt this enterprise and to allow it to become a branch of this university. Instead, Virginia Tech has agreed for economic development purposes to put together a committee that would advise them in developing a curriculum that would be suited to the needs of that area. This committee includes members from Longwood and Radford Universities, a representative from the State Council on Higher Education, and a representative from Secretary of Education's office, and others. All Virginia Tech faculty time, travel, etc. will be fully reimbursed so that no university resources will be used. The Memorandum of Understanding states that a president of this new entity must be hired quickly, and that no funds of Virginia Tech will be used to benefit this effort, nor will Virginia Tech receive any funds on behalf of this new entity. Virginia Tech will not administer the budget of this new entity. Virginia Tech will simply act in an advisory manner.

9. Adjournment

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