

University Council Minutes
April 2, 2007
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Erv Blythe, Sheryl Ball for Lay Nam Chang, Marty Simpson for Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Alicia Cohen for Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Heidi McCoy for Jim Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kevin McDonald, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Lud Eng for Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Brian Mihalik for Jan Helge Bøhn, François Elvinger, Carlos Evia, Pat Hyer for Valerie Hardcastle, Frances Keene, Caryl Gray for Karen Roberto, Michael Denbow for Tom Walker, Bob Denton, Sam Easterling, Hayden Griffin for Richard Goff, Mark Anderson, John Browder, Gene Brown, Carolyn Copenheaver, Joe Eska, Leon Geyer, Karen Inzana, Muzzo Uysal, Jean Brickey, Teresa Lyons, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mary Alice Schaeffer for Betsey Waterman, Ed Lener, Laura Freeman, Jory Ruscio, Antoinette Stroter, Jen Crook, Ennis McCrery, and Kerry Redican

Absent with notice: Charles Steger, David Ford, Zenobia Hikes, Eileen Hitchingham, Judy Alford, Gene Egger,

Absent without notice: Sumeet Bagai, Ken Eriksson, Hardus Odendaal, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Delbert Jones, Donna Hamm, Therese Lovegreen, Jonathan McCloud, Ed McPherson, Duane Rollins, Richard Shingles, Vik Narayan, Marc Saint Raymond, Sarah Saxton, Ryan Smith, and Greg Sagstetter

Guests: Teresa Wright, Bill Elvey, Bethany Flora, and Wolfgang Natter

Dr. Mark McNamee 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. Announcements

Dr. McNamee announced that a note was discovered that afternoon in the Department of Electrical Engineering that stated a bomb was placed in Torgersen Hall and is scheduled to go off that evening. Torgersen Hall was evacuated, and evening classes in the building were cancelled. At the time of the meeting, law enforcement and search dogs were in place and an organized search was underway. An electronic notice was issued through the university emergency notification system. [Note: After a thorough search, no bomb was found.]

Dr. McNamee reminded Council that there are only two remaining University Council meetings: April 16 and May 7. Any new actions items must be brought forward at the April 16 meeting to allow for proper first and second readings and voting.

3. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 19, 2007

Dr. McNamee noted that these minutes were voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>). (Note: The University Council meeting scheduled for March 19, 2007 was cancelled.)

4. New Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2006-07C
Annual and Pre-tenure Faculty Evaluations

Dr. Sam Easterling presented the resolution for first reading. Dr. McNamee asked that the term “strongly encouraged” be revised to more specific wording. Once the Commission has made the revisions, Legal Counsel should review the resolution prior to second reading and voting.

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2006-07D
Composition of Committees for Promotion and Tenure Evaluation

Dr. Sam Easterling presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution is to establish consistency across departments and colleges. The most notable language clarification in the resolution is that no one person is allowed more than one vote. Recommendations made to a dean by a department chair or head, a dean’s recommendation to the college committee, and a recommendation by the Provost to the President are all considered as a vote.

It was recommended that a change be made to the wording of number 8 on page 3 for the sake of clarification. The word “college” should be inserted to read, “A faculty member will chair the college committee.”

One significant change in voting rights is that the college dean will not be eligible to chair the college committee. The chair would be a faculty member (defined as an individual who is eligible for membership in Faculty Senate). Therefore, department heads would be the highest level of “administrator” that would be eligible to chair the college committee.

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2006-07 E
Part-Time Appointments for Tenure-Track and Tenured Faculty

Dr. McNamee announced that resolution is being revised and will not be presented at this meeting for first reading. It is anticipated to come forward for first reading at the April 16 meeting.

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Resolution CFA 2006-07F
Career Track for Instructors and General Employment Policies for Non-Tenure-Track Instructional Faculty Members

Dr. Sam Easterling asked Dr. Pat Hyer to present the resolution for first reading. This resolution recognizes long-serving instructors that currently have no career path for promotion or recognition opportunities for their accomplishments. Advancement opportunities for faculty members that are successfully promoted would include promotion to “Advanced Instructor” with a renewable three-year contract and “Senior Instructor” with a renewable five-year contract. Criteria for successful promotions are being developed to be used as a standard.

The second part of this policy addresses employment issues and policies for non-tenure-track instructional faculty contained in the faculty handbook. These policies pertain to non-reappointments, causes for termination, and other pertinent issues.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
Resolution CGSP 2006-07D
Resolution to Establish a Ph.D. in Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought

Dr. François Elvinger presented the resolution for first reading and reviewed the purpose.

Commission on University Support
Resolution CUS 2006-07A
Resolution to Approve the Establishment of the
University Committee on Energy and Sustainability

On behalf of the CUS chair, Dr. Jan Helge Bøhn, Dr. Brian Mihalik presented the resolution for first reading and reviewed the policy.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution CUSP 2006-07B
Assignment of NG and NR Grades for Undergraduate Courses
(Revision to Policy Memorandum 92)

On behalf of the CUSP chair, Dr. Tom Walker, Dr. Michael Denbow presented the resolution for first reading. It was suggested that the Commission consider clarifying what “NG” and “NR” represent for those who are not familiar with the grading system.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution CUSP 2006-07C
Assignment of an Audit Grade in Undergraduate Courses

On behalf of the CUSP chair, Dr. Tom Walker, Dr. Michael Denbow presented the resolution for first reading.

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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
January 19, 2007
February 2, 2007
March 2, 2007
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
February 12, 2007
February 26, 2007
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
January 26, 2007
February 2, 2007
February 23, 2007

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
February 7, 2007
February 21, 2007
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
January 25, 2007
- Commission on Research
December 6, 2006
February 14, 2007
- Commission on Student Affairs
February 1, 2007
February 15, 2007
March 1, 2007
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
January 25, 2007
February 22, 2007
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
February 12, 2007
February 26, 2007

6. For Information Only

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
January 25, 2007

7. Discussion

Policies Supporting the Principles of Community

Dr. Carlos Evia distributed a document that describes the various university and state policies and university procedures that support the ideals and expectations set forth in the “Principles of Community” and provide meaningful accountability for substantive violations. These are existing policies and procedures that match provisions in the “Principles.”

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.