University Council Minutes  
December 4, 2006  
3:00 – 5:00 PM  
1045 Pamplin Hall


Absent with notice: Charles Steger, Tom Tillar, Karen Inzana, Lori Anne Sheppard, Donna Hamm,


Guests: Teresa Wright

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. **Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of November 13, 2006**

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](http://www.governance.vt.edu)).

3. **New Business**

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGSP 2006-07A  
Resolution for Establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in “STEM Education: Engineering”

Dr. François Elvinger presented the resolution for first reading. The purpose of this degree is to fill the need for scholars/educators with expertise in the engineering disciplines. Dr. Jerry Niles stated that the School of Education supports this proposed degree. He expressed concern about the naming of this degree. Dr. DePauw replied that use of the term STEM in this degree does not exclude its use in other degree names.
This is a rare opportunity allowing Virginia Tech to lead in STEM through the Ph.D. level in training other educators who can teach the STEM disciplines to college students, research areas, and have an influence on the K-12 system. This degree builds on collaborations between the School of Education and the College of Engineering.

Dr. Richard Benson commented that the College of Engineering is a strong supporter of this proposed degree. Virginia Tech will be on the forefront in educating teachers in technology at the middle school and high school levels. There is also a need for educators to teach courses for professionals already in the workforce.

Dr. McNamee noted that the next University Council meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2007. This resolution will return for second reading at that time.

**Commission on Staff Policy and Affairs**  
CSPA Resolution 2006-07B  
Addition of the Staff Representative to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors as a Member of the University Council

Ms. Judy Alford presented the resolution for first reading. The faculty and student representatives to the Board of Visitors currently hold ex-officio, non-voting appointments on University Council. Recently, the President of Staff Senate was added as a non-voting representative to the Board of Visitors. To be consistent, the Staff Senate President should be added to University Council as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

4. **Old Business**

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**  
Resolution CFA 2006-07A  
Resolution on Valid Issues for Faculty Grievances

Dr. Valerie Hardcastle briefly presented and reviewed the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded.

Dr. Benson expressed concern over two of the examples of valid issues (numbers 2 and 4) for filing a grievance. He felt that item number 4, “substantive error in the application of policy,” already included P&T so that number 2 is unnecessary. Dr. Hardcastle responded that in theory, the P&T process could be interpreted to be included. However, the reason for listing the examples is to help faculty understand what they can and cannot grieve. The examples are reflective of specific cases that lend themselves to grievance consideration.

The vote was taken; the resolution passed with one opposing vote and two abstentions.

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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity  
  October 30, 2006  
  November 13, 2006
5. **Announcement**

Ms. Kim O’Rourke announced that any items needing approval by the Board of Visitors at their March meeting must come to University Council for first reading on February 5 to allow for second reading and a vote.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.