

**University Council Minutes**  
**October 21, 2002**  
**3:00 — 5:00 PM**  
**1045 Pamplin Hall**

**Present:** Charles Steger (Presiding), Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Robert Bush for Greg Brown, Lay Nam Chang, Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Karen DePauw, Peter Eyre, Elizabeth Flanagan, Fain Rutherford for Mel Gillespie, Paul Knox, Mark McNamee, Malcolm McPherson, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Minnis Ridenour, Richard Sorensen, Andy Swiger, Tom Tillar, Ruth Grene, Donald Hatfield, Sharon McCloskey, Brian Montgomery, Eric Pappas, Joe Pitt, Diane Zahm, Mark Barrow, Bob Tracy, Mitzi Vernon, Karen Cronin for Randy Stith, H.P. Natha for Imad Al-Qadi, Bernard Feldman, Bernice Hausman, Philip Huang, Peter Kennelly, Robert Smith, Althea Aschmann, Maxine Lyons, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Mike Martin, Terry Kershaw, Jan van Aardt, Allan Bradley, Brant Snyder, Sterling Daniel, Andrew Jayne, Rachel Luken, Brian Montgomery, David Ford, Pat Hyer, Dwight Shelton, Ellen Plummer

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.

A motion was then made and seconded to revise agenda to include first reading of CUSP Resolution 2002-03A. The motion carried.

**2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of October 21, 2002.**

Dr. Steger noted that these minutes were revised and Dr. Pat Hyer read the amended paragraphs, which referred to Resolutions UC2002-03A and UC2002-03B. The revisions were only for clarification and did not change substance of the items. A motion was made to approve the minutes as they were amended. The motion carried. The minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the WEB (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>)

**3. New Business**

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution 2002-03A

Resolution to Rename College of Human Resources & Education to the College of Human Sciences & Education

As copies of the resolution were distributed, Interim Dean Jerry Niles introduced the resolution and explained how the term for the discipline has evolved over time from Home Economics to Human Resources and now to Human Sciences. In current usage, the term Human resources usually refers to the field of personnel management. Changing the name to the College of Human Sciences and Education will better reflect the nature of the college.

**4. Second Reading**

**Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies**

Resolution CGSP2002-03A

Resolution establishing the MS and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering

Elaine Scott, Director of the Center for Biomedical Engineering, introduced the resolution for second reading. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**University Council**

Resolution UC2002-03A

Resolution amending the University Council Constitution to Establish a Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Dr. Steger reported that he had been advised by Associate General Counsel Kay Heidbreder that the first whereas clause in this resolution could be problematic from a legal standpoint. The statement could be

construed as an admission by Virginia Tech that discriminatory practices have existed at the university in the recent past, which has not been the case. Such an apparent admission could be used against the university.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. When the floor was opened for discussion, Dr. Ben Dixon suggested new wording for the first paragraph to read, "WHEREAS, in earlier times, women, individuals of color, individuals of underrepresented groups, and people with disabilities were not integrated fully into the academic, social, and cultural life of Virginia Tech, and whereas Virginia Tech continues to work to assure there are no lingering effects of this legacy; and" A motion was made and seconded to amend the first whereas clause as proposed by Dr. Dixon. The motion passed.

Dr. Steger then called for a vote on the resolution itself as amended. The resolution passed with the required two-thirds affirmative vote; there was one vote in opposition.

#### **University Council**

Resolution UC2002-03B

Resolution amending the University Council By-Laws to Establish Membership for the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution.

When the floor was opened for discussion, a motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by increasing the number of faculty or staff community representatives from seven to eight; the eighth representative would be elected (or selected) by the Center for Appalachian Studies. As a result, the overall commission membership would increase to 29 members. The motion to amend the resolution passed with an affirmative vote of the majority.

Another motion was then made and seconded to amend the resolution by reducing the length of the terms of **faculty and** classified staff at-large members to one year to be comparable to the length of the terms of student at-large members. Dr. Hyer raised a point of order on the basis that this amendment would be in conflict with the provisions of the University Council Constitution. Ms. O'Rourke reviewed the UC Constitution and noted that this amendment would be in conflict with the University Council Constitution, which states that the terms of **faculty and** classified staff elected to serve on commissions is three years (Article VII, Section 6). Dr. Steger stated that the point was well taken, and no vote was taken on the proposed amendment.

A third motion was then made and seconded to amend the resolution by increasing the number of representatives from the Student Government Association from one to two and specifying that one of those two will be the chair of the SGA's diversity committee (CDA). Overall membership of the commission thus would be increased to 30 members. This motion to amend the resolution passed unanimously.

With no further discussion, Dr. Steger called for a vote on the resolution itself as amended. The resolution passed with the required affirmative vote of the majority; there was one vote in opposition.

#### **4. Council accepted the following Commission minutes:**

- Commission on Student Affairs  
September 26, 2002
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
September 23, 2002

#### **5. Adjournment**

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.