

University Council Minutes
April 21, 2003
3:00 — 5:00PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger, Hassan Aref, Jeb Stewart for Earving Blythe, Richard Oderwald for Greg Brown, Lay Nam Chang, Ben Dixon, Karen DePauw, Peter Eyre, Margie Zelinski for Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Paul Knox, Mark McNamee, Lu Ann Gaskill for Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, James B. Blair, Daniel Martin for Minnis Ridenour, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Pat Ballard, Steve Boyle for Ruth Grene, Donald Hatfield, Sharon McCloskey, Eric Pappas, Joe Pitt, Pat Hyer for Diane Zahm, Don Orth, Bob Tracy, Imad Al-Qadi, Bernard Feldman, Elizabeth Gilboy, Bernice Hausman, Phillip Huang, Peter Kennelly, Robert Smith, Althea Aschmann, Maxine Lyons, Jimmy Martin, Terry Kershaw, Randy Stith, Jan van Aardt

Absent: Landrum Cross, Ben Dixon, Mel Gillespie, Ray Smoot, Brian Montgomery, Mark Barrow, Wayne Durham, JoAnn Emmel, Jeryl Jones, Mitzi Vernon, Gloria Bird, Mike Martin, Delbert Jones, Myron McClees, Melinda Pomeroy, Brandy Ellen Cowing, Allan Bradley, Sterling Daniel, Andrew Jayne, Rachel Luken, Brant Snyder

Guests: David Ford, Dwight Shelton, Terry Clements, Ron Daniel, David Vaughan, Beth Waggenspack, Matt McAllister, Rachel Holloway

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. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of April 7, 2003.

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://intra.vt.edu/govern/>).

3. New Business

First Reading

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CGSP 2002-03D

Resolution for Establishment of a Master of Arts (MA) in Communication

Degree Program in the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Steve Boyle presented the resolution for first reading. Matt McAllister explained that there are ten GTA positions already assigned to the program. A Master of Arts is currently an option in the department of English and students have been admitted since 1999. Since 1999, the number of applications has grown. Bernice Hausman noted that the English Department supports this resolution. No new resources or allocations are necessary.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

CGSP Resolution 2002-03E

Resolution to Approve Merged and Renamed M.S. and Ph.D. of Apparel,
Housing and Resource Management

Steve Boyle presented the resolution for first reading. This is a result of the realignment of colleges, specifically the movement of Interior Design into the College of Architecture. LuAnn Gaskill, Department Head of Apparel, Housing and Resource Management, stated that these are the remaining two programs from several department restructurings. These restructurings have aligned these two programs into a position where it is possible to mainstream into one department. Current restructuring is curriculum restructuring. Pat Hyer suggested moving this resolution forward at SCHEV more quickly than Spring 04 to make it effective December 03.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies

CGSP Resolution 2002-03F

Resolution for Appointment of a Northern Virginia Faculty Representative to the
Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
(Amendment to University Council By-laws)

Steve Boyle introduced the resolution for first reading. In order to best represent the considerable body of faculty and graduate students at the Northern Virginia campuses, it is proposed to appoint a faculty member to represent that area in an at-large capacity. This would particularly help with policy considerations to represent this area. Details such as who makes the appointment, length of term, etc. will need to be considered before the second reading of the resolution. Dr. DePauw expressed her support for this resolution as it answers a specific need.

Commission on Outreach

Resolution UC 2002-0B

Resolution for Name Change of Commission on Outreach
(Amendment to University Council By-laws)

Eric Pappas introduced the resolution for first reading. International Affairs is well represented in the Commission on Outreach, which has helped them gain access to the university governance system. In addition, the Vice Provost position now includes International Affairs and it is most appropriate for the commission to include same. There are no structural changes needed to accommodate this resolution.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

Resolution CUSP 2002-03D

Resolution to Modify the Second Writing-Intensive in Major Requirement

Don Hatfield introduced the resolution for first reading. This resolution is to modify the second Writing Intensive requirement only. Beth Waggenpack, Chair of the University Core Curriculum Committee, stated that this resolution is a result of approximately two years' worth of study by a number of different groups. Writing Intensive was initially created

to encourage writing in the disciplines and has its own implementation guidelines and assessment guidelines. These procedures are not related to area one. Freshman Composition, composition or communication skills that are level one will not be affected. We also know that in last several years, demands for student competencies, in all forms of communication (i.e. written oral and visual) have increased. She cited various reports such as: SACS, our own strategic plan, SCHEV Competency, as well as various advisory boards in a number of colleges, accrediting boards, and comparable institutions. It is proposed to take the second WI requirement and transition it into a new form called "Written Oral and Visual Communications across the Disciplines." The disciplines play a strong role in defining what they are doing for their students. Each discipline has unique goals to accomplish. This particular resolution that would freeze the current second Writing Intensive so that we can develop a template for measurement on how communication is happening across the disciplines and allows our colleagues to better assess what they are doing in respect to their own communication activities. The Core Curriculum Committee is putting out a call to members of the academic community to be involved in a summer study that would look at this new template for trying to implement new ways of looking at communication (written, oral and visual). The Core Curriculum Committee unanimously supported this resolution. Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies passed this resolution with a vote of 17-5. It is also noted that the dean of each college is a member of the CUSP and has been a part of this process.

In response to a question, Beth explained that area 1 has two different sections to it. This does not impact freshman composition or communication skills. Those are the true area 1. Several years ago Writing Intensive was tacked-on to area 1, but it has its own separate implementation guidelines, assessment guidelines; and indeed, the freshman composition and communication skills are not even Writing Intensive courses. They are not counted as Writing Intensive, nor are they considered as Writing Intensive; they do not fall under those guidelines. It is not the intent to freeze the second Writing Intensive to take away writing from students. University colleagues are requiring more writing across the disciplines in courses that are not currently designated as Writing Intensive as well as in Writing Intensive classes. There is ample data that supports that this is the case. This recognizes within the disciplines that perhaps they need to approach written, oral and visual communication in a broader fashion than simply a Writing Intensive. This goes back to all previously mentioned competency reports. It is not feasible to simply keep adding courses. This is a means to take what we have, and hold the line in the disciplines because they are having difficulty meeting two Writing Intensive requirements. This is partly a resource issue though it did not begin as a resource issue. It began as a need to expand what we are currently doing and to increase standards to meet what others are doing.

This does not stop people from taking courses that have writing. Many of colleagues have students doing a lot of writing. Beth has done 77 assessment letters of WI classes. People are meeting the demands of the WI. The guidelines are very specific and assume one set of guidelines meets all courses' needs. This does not allow the disciplines to determine according to their accrediting boards, and others, where we need to take this.

In reference to the recently passed freeze on the Core, that resolution allows for Writing Intensive courses to be added. This resolution is a means of transitioning into something

different for that section of the Core. It is a realistic way to view where we are, assess where we know we need to go, and determine the way to get there.

Comments about the resolution to modify the WI requirement questioned (1) the advisability of removing the second WI course requirement when there is nothing firmly in place to take its place, (2) the Core Committee's assertion that the WI requirement was not really a part of Area 1, (3) the idea that the WI requirement had matured, as stated in the resolution, and (4) the notion that Virginia Tech students need to do less writing than they already do in the course of the general curriculum.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

CUSP 2002-03E

Resolution to Approve New Degree Bachelor of Science in Interior Design

Don Hatfield introduced the resolution of a new degree. Dean Knox stated that this is a consequence of restructuring. Interior design was a program within Near Environments and is now a part of Architecture and Urban Studies. It has its own accreditation, and a healthy student demand. This curriculum should stand with its own degree and no new resources are required.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

CUSP 2002-03F

Resolution to Approve Merged and Renamed Bachelor of Science for Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management

Don introduced the resolution for first reading. It is parallel to the Masters Program.

4. Old Business

Commission on Faculty Affairs - deferred

Resolution CFA 2002-03B

Return-Service Obligation for Study-Research Leave
(First Reading March 17, 2003)

Pat Hyer presented the resolution for second reading. It was explained that when faculty take the year-long Study-Research leave over non-sequential semesters, they owe a year at the end of the last semester. This resolution was not in effect at the time that leave was approved for the Fall 2003. Pat stated that it would be preferable if it were possible to have an effective date for any leave beginning Fall 2003. This is something people would welcome not something they would be concerned about.

Dr. Steger stated that the Board has approved those leaves and has already acted with a different set of conditions in place; but if possible, we will do that.

A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and passed, with effective date to be determined.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies - deferred

Resolution CUSP2002-03-B
Resolution to Establish a Temporary Freeze on Course Proposals to
The University Core Curriculum Committee
(First Reading March 17, 2003)

Don Hatfield presented the resolution for second reading. Dr. McNamee stated that he understood both sides of the issue and believed there would be benefit from stabilizing before making changes. A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and passed with one abstention.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CUSP2002-03-C
Resolution to Accommodate Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Observance in the University Calendar Criteria

Don Hatfield presented the resolution for second reading. Dr. Steger stated that a resolution was passed last year allowing the university to recognize Martin Luther King Day. The committee was charged to look at how to accommodate this loss of a class day in the academic calendar. They have come forward with resolution that adheres to rule of having the same number of class days in each semester. In order to keep the same number of days in the fall, the suggestion is to have a break in October on Columbus Day.

Dr. Steger noted a couple of concerns: 1) When classes are cancelled, it has a significant impact on ability of faculty to accomplish their objectives. 2) When the college closes, we lose \$1.8m a day in productivity. Canceling classes in spring semester to accommodate MLK day will allow activities to be attended by faculty, but this is not the same thing as declaring a university holiday. It would be preferable to spend more time conferring, understanding and bring back other solutions at the next meeting. Other institutions do not necessarily require same number of class days in both semesters.

A motion was made, seconded and passed with one abstention to postpone this resolution until additional options can be considered.

Dr. Ford re-stated that this issue of implementation would not affect the 05-06 the calendar. The calendar will reflect no classes on MLK Day. If classes are cancelled one day in the fall to balance the semesters, the effect on academic-year teaching faculty is the same as the vacation days prior to Thanksgiving. If calendar-year or A/P faculty take the day off, they would have to use annual leave. Canceling class on Columbus Day in order to balance the semesters was proposed because Columbus Day is already a staff holiday. Joe Pitt added that faculty and students greatly need a short break in the fall prior to Thanksgiving.

5. Announcement of approval and posting of Commission minutes

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the University web.

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
March 14, 2003

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
March 19, 2003
- Commission on Research
March 12, 2003
- Commission on Student Affairs
March 27, 2003
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (Revised)
March 24, 2003

8. Adjournment

Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m. The last meeting of the academic year will be May 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim T. O'Rourke
Executive Assistant to the President

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