

University Council Minutes
October 10 2005
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Mark McNamee (Presiding), Ed Henneke for Richard Benson, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Ed Lener for Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Mike Kelly, Paul Knox, Kurt Krause, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Hap Bonham for Richard Sorensen, Kevin McDonald, Judy Alford, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Tom Walker for Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Vinod Lohani for Richard Goff, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Mark Anderson, Jan Helge Bohn for Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Joe Eska, Edward Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart, Jennifer Jessie, Navin Manjooan

Absent: Erv Blythe (with notice) Erv Blythe (with notice), Brad Fenwick, Tom Tillar, Scott Case (with notice), Richard Ashley, Jack Cranford (with notice), Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Chris Thomas, James Berkson, Leon Geyer, Hans Rott, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm, David Jones, Stephen Kalista (with notice), Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood, Lindsay Leisher

Guests: Pat Hyer, Teresa Wright

Dr. 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 September 19, 2005

Dr. McNamee 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>).

3. New Business

Commission on Research

Resolution COR 2005-06A

Resolution Amending the Policy on Research Extended Appointments

Revision of Policy 6200

Dr. Sam Easterling introduced the resolution for first reading. Dr. Pat Hyer then reviewed the policy and proposed revisions. Policy 6200 has been in place for a number of years. Prior to that, summer research earnings were treated as wages, and no benefits were accrued. The "CY Research Conversion" was subsequently created to establish a 12-month appointment whereby externally-funded faculty earnings on a sponsored project that extended for three months over the summer would be eligible for retirement contributions from the sponsored grant or contract (not from overhead or state dollars).

The College of Engineering Faculty Organization surveyed a number of research universities to compare retirement benefits as one aspect of a competitive compensation package. They found that although rates of retirement contributions are relatively comparable, the treatment of

summer salary differs. The faculty organization requested a review of ways in which faculty members who have between one and three months of external summer funding might have an opportunity to accrue retirement benefits on those summer earnings.

Therefore, this amendment to the policy would also provide for 10-month and 11-month CY research conversions for those situations in which a faculty member has less than a full three months of external funding for a sponsored project over the summer. In summary, the amended policy provides for 10-month, 11-month, or 12-month research conversions, while the existing policy provides for only a 12-month research conversion. As before, the retirement contributions would be contingent upon sufficient fringe benefits being available in the sponsored grant or contract.

A question was raised as to whether summer school (teaching) salaries could be treated in the same way. Dr. Hyer explained that summer school teaching salaries are paid with state funds, and the state does not make retirement contributions based on faculty summer school earnings. Thus, the CY research conversion applies only to externally funded work.

Dr. McNamee commended the College of Engineering Faculty Organization for doing much of the background research and Pat Hyer for working with the faculty groups to amend the policy.

NOTE: In cases where the external funding would occur for only one summer, the faculty member would be required to make arrangements for the CY research conversion during the preceding fall semester. The reason is that VRS continually monitors against manipulating earnings for a single, short-term period for the purpose of boosting the (eventual) retirement payout.

4. 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 A/P Faculty Affairs
September 6, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
September 2, 2005
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
April 20, 2005
- Commission on Research
April 13, 2005

5. For Information Only

Minutes of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning
August 25, 2005

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. McNamee adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.