

University Council Minutes
December 5, 2005
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Ed Nelson for Richard Benson, Lay Nam Chang, Zenobia Hikes, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kurt Krause, Kevin McDonald, Mark McNamee, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Jan Helge Bohn, Scott Case, Sam Easterling, Joan Moore, Ray Plaza, Kerry Redican, Jory Ruscio, Judith Shrum, Bob Wheeler, Susan Anderson, Jack Cranford, Richard Goff, Kamal Rojiani, Jean Brickey, Sue Ellen Crocker, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Louellen Sharp, Chris Thomas, Mark Anderson, Joe Eska, Hans Rott, Laura Gillman, Sumeet Bagai, Mike Barnett, Lindsey Leisher, Chris Miller, Kristina Perry, Derek Jones for Devin Weller, Susanna Rinehart

Absent: Erv Blythe, David Ford, Paul Knox, Jerry Niles, Judy Alford (with notice), Richard Ashley, Kathleen Jones, Fabrice Teulon, Lori Anne Sheppard, James Berkson, Gene Brown, Marion Ehrich, Leon Geyer, Muzzo Uysal, Akilah Chopfield, Donna Hamm (with notice), David Jones, Ed Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson (with notice), Stephen "Jamie" Kalista, Swamy Siddaramappa, Kerry Wood

Guests: Lawrence Grossman, Mike Vorster, Carolyn Rude, Lucinda Roy, Teresa Wright

Dr. Steger called the meeting to order at 3:03 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 14, 2005

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://www.governance.vt.edu>).

3. Announcement of Research Funding

The Dr. Steger reported that a press conference will be held by Governor Warner. In his upcoming budget, Governor Warner will award \$255 million to develop and promote higher educational research facilities and faculty in Virginia. This will be the largest one-time investment in research made in the history of Virginia.

4. Old Business

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06A

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis in the College of Natural Resources

Dr. Scott Case presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously. This resolution will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for approval and then the State Council on Higher Education.

5. New Business

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CGSP 2005-06B

Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Rhetoric and Writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dr. Scott Case introduced the resolution for first reading. The resolution will be presented for second reading and voting at the February 6 University Council meeting.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies and Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

Resolution CUSP 2005-06A and CGSP 2005-06C

Resolution for the Establishment of a School of Construction at Virginia Tech

Dr. Scott Case introduced the resolution for first reading. Forthcoming will be proposals for a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Management. This will be a degree in the College of Engineering that will be administered by the School of Construction. There will also be a proposal to establish an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree program in Construction. In addition to the proposed undergraduate degree and Ph.D. degree, two existing master degree programs will be administered by the school: one in Building Construction, and the other in Civil Engineering. Dean Sorensen noted that the Pamplin College of Business supports the proposal for this new school.

Dr. Mike Vorster stated that major funding has been secured for the development of this school upon its approval.

6. 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 Classified Staff Affairs
October 13, 2005
- Commission on Equal Opportunity & Diversity
October 31, 2005
November 14, 2005
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
October 28, 2005
- Commission on Student Affairs
October 20, 2005
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
November 10, 2005
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
October 10, 2005
October 24, 2005

7. Announcement

Virginia Tech has been invited to play in the Gator Bowl. This invitation has been accepted, and announced nationally.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Steger adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.