

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

Present: Mark McNamee (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Jack Finney for Lay Nam Chang, Marty Simpson for Jack Davis, Karen DePauw, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Tim Pickering for Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Zenobia Hikes, Paul Metz for Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Michael Kelly, Kevin McDonald, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Tim Mack for Sharron Quisenberry, Gerhardt Schurig, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Judy Alford, Brian Mihalik for Jan Helge Bøhn, François Elvinger, Carlos Evia, Valerie Hardcastle, Pat Hyer for Frances Keene, Karen Roberto, Tom Walker, Bob Denton, Sam Easterling, Ken Eriksson, Richard Goff, Hardul Odendaal, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Robert Tracy for Mark Anderson, John Browder, Gene Brown, Ulrika Egertsdotter for Carolyn Copenheaver, Sheila Carter-Tod for Joe Eska, Muzzo Uysal, Jean Brickey, James Martin for Delbert Jones, Teresa Lyons, Louellen Sharp, Chris Thomas, Mary Alice Schaeffer for Betsey Waterman, Ed Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Richard Shingles, Jory Ruscio, Antoinette Stroter, Kellie Gleeson, Marc Saint Raymond, Kerry Redican

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

Absent without notice: Sumeet Bagai, Gene Egger, Leon Geyer, Jonathan McCloud, Ed McPherson, Duane Rollins, Laura Freeman, John Baer, Jen Crook, Sarah Saxton, Ryan Smith

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>).

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

- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
November 1, 2006
- Commission on Research
September 13, 2006
October 11, 2006
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
September 25, 2006
October 23, 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.