

University Council Minutes
November 13, 2006
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: David Ford (Presiding), Richard Benson, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Bob Schubert for Jack Davis, Ben Dixon, John Dooley, Tom Inzana for Brad Fenwick, Angela Hayes for Elizabeth Flanagan, Zenobia Hikes, Eileen Hitchingham, Heidi McCoy for James Hyatt, Kurt Krause, David Travis for Kevin McDonald, Jerry Niles, Kim O'Rourke, Martin Daniel for Sharron Quisenberry, Dwight Shelton, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Judy Alford, Brian Mihalik for Jan Helge Bøhn, Gene Egger, Francois Elvinger, Carlos Evia, Valerie Hardcastle, Karen Roberto, Susanna Rinehart for Sam Easterling, Ken Eriksson, Richard Goff, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Mark Anderson, John Browder, Gene Brown, James D. Fraser for Carolyn Copenheaver, Sheila Carter-Tod for Joe Eska, Karen Inzana, Muzzo Uysal, Jean Brickey, Delbert Jones, Debbi Morgan for Teresa Lyons, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Chris Thomas, Mary Alice Schaeffer for Betsey Waterman, Donna Hamm, Ed Lener, Therese Lovegreen, Ed McPherson, Richard Shingles, Jory Ruscio, Antoinette Stroter, Jennifer Crook, Marc Saint Raymond, Sarah Saxton, Ryan Smith, Ennis McCrery, Kerry Redican, and Greg Sagstetter

Absent with notice: Karen DePauw, J. Michael Kelly, Mark McNamee, Gerhardt Schurig, and Charles Steger

Absent without notice: Sumeet Bagai, Frances Keene, Bob Denton, Hardus Odendaal, Leon Geyer, Jonathan McCloud, Duane Rollins, Laura Freeman, John Baer, Kellie Gleeson,

Guests: Pat Hyer, Teresa Wright

Dr. David Ford 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 October 2, 2006

Dr. Ford 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>).

(Note: The University Council meeting scheduled for October 16, 2006 was cancelled.)

3. New Business

Commission on 'Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2006-07A

Resolution on Valid Issues for Faculty Grievances

Dr. Valerie Hardcastle presented the resolution for first reading. The purpose of this resolution is to clarify issues that may be grieved and to ensure that the Faculty Handbook matches actual practice. The most substantive change is bullet item #2 of examples under *Valid Issues for Grievance*. Procedure violations for promotion and tenure (not merit violations or considerations) are grievable. Any issues of merit must go through the P&T appeals process. The reason for this added clarification is to provide a means of addressing issues with the P&T

process, particularly when there are violations of procedure during an appeal. The Faculty Senate Committee on Reconciliation is advisory to the Provost.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2006-07B

Resolution for Composition of Committees for Promotion and Tenure Evaluation

Dr. Valerie Hardcastle presented the resolution for first reading. This resolution addresses procedures with respect to the promotion and tenure evaluation. A similar resolution was presented to University Council during the last academic year and then withdrawn. Part of the difficulty last year is that there was not adequate representation of all colleges on the CFA. To address this issue, a faculty survey was given at the beginning of this year to all tenure-track faculty asking them about how they thought P&T committees should be structured. One of the issues addressed is how often one should be allowed to vote on a P&T matter. For example, should a Department Head serve and vote on a department or college level committee, and then additionally write a separate letter of evaluation as is required by the policies and procedures. Another finding of the survey was that smaller departments wanted flexibility to allow associate professors to participate on a committee in order to populate that committee adequately.

On behalf of Sam Easterling, Chair of Faculty Senate who was unable to attend the meeting, Ms. Susanna Rinehart conveyed concerns that Faculty Senate has not had sufficient opportunity to review this resolution prior to first reading at University Council. Several of the Faculty Senators requested that Ms. Rinehart recommend that CFA consider allowing Faculty Senate to approve the resolution prior to University Council's first reading.

A motion was made and seconded to refer the resolution back to the Commission to allow for review and approval by Faculty Senate. A vote was taken and passed to refer the resolution back to the Commission. CFA will take the resolution to the Faculty Senate for further discussion and bring it back to University Council for first reading at a later date.

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 Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
October 6, 2006
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
September 25, 2006
October 16, 2006
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
September 8, 2006
September 22, 2006
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
September 20, 2006
October 4, 2006

October 18, 2006

- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
September 14, 2006
October 12, 2006
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
(Previously named Commission on Classified Staff Affairs)
September 28, 2006
- Commission on Student Affairs
October 5, 2006
October 19, 2006

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Ford adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.