

University Council Minutes
February 18, 2008
3:00 – 5:00 PM
1045 Pamplin Hall

Present: Charles Steger (Presiding), Mark McNamee, Jeb Stewart for Erv Blythe, Lay Nam Chang, Karen DePauw, Elizabeth Flanagan, David Ford, Eileen Hitchingham, J. Michael Kelly, Kevin McDonald, Mary Marchant for Sharron Quisenberry, Ludeman Eng for Gerhardt Schurig, Dwight Shelton, Maggie Sloane, Richard Sorensen, Tom Tillar, Robert Walters, Sherwood Wilson, Brian Mihalik for Jan Helge Bøhn, Mike Denbow, Pat Hyer for Frances Keene, Kumar Mallikarjunan, Hardus Odendaal, Tom Tucker, Rachel Holloway for Bob Denton, Sam Easterling, Susanna Rinehart, Kamal Rojiani, Fabrice Teulon, Danny Axsom, Gene Brown, Bill Galloway, Jean Brickey, Travis Hundley, Teresa Lyons, Wyatt Sasser, Louellen Sharp, Chris Thomas, Annette Bailey, Julie Walters-Steele, Antionette Stroter, Judy Alford, Kerry Redican, Heidi McCoy for Kim O'Rourke

Absent: Jack Davis, Zenobia Hikes, Richard Benson (with notice), Sue Ott Rowlands, John Dooley (with notice), Erin Dolan, Robert Grange, Ruth Grene, Joe McFadden, Ken Eriksson, Sam Riley, Joe Eska, Leon Geyer, Karen Inzana, Gene Seago, Shep Zedaker (with notice), Mary Alice Schaeffer, Kim Beisecker, Arlane Gordon-Bray, Ed McPherson, Mike Parrish, Manisha Patel, Yolanda Avent, Laura Freeman, T.J. Brennan, Ryan Gleeson, Thomas Hogdahl, Adeel Khan, Vik Narayan, Emily Webb, Brennan Shepard, Ryan Smith

Guest: April Myers

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 February 4, 2008

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>).

Dr. Steger gave an update about his recent meeting with the Governor and the Attorney General in Richmond. In approximately two weeks Virginia Tech will begin a process of mediation with the individuals and families impacted by the April 16, 2007, tragedy. There may be as many as 60 separate cases. This will be a difficult task that will take an emotional toll on all involved.

3. Old Business

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs

Resolution CAPFA 2007-08A

Resolution for University Closure for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Dr. Pat Hyer presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was passed.

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Resolution CFA 2007-08A

Resolution for Continued Appointment Process Revisions

Dr. Hardus Odendaal presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was passed.

Commission on University Support

Resolution CUS 2007-08A

Resolution for Appointment of the New Executive Director of University Planning, Design, and Construction as a Member of the University Building Committee

Dr. Brian Mihalik presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded and the resolution was passed.

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 Equal Opportunity and Diversity
January 28, 2008
- Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
December 5, 2007
January 16, 2008
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
January 28, 2008

5. Budget Status Presentation by Mr. Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

In December, the Governor released his proposed budget for 2008-10. Two to three weeks ago it became clear that the economy was going to be such that the Governor would have to take additional action, and we knew there was going to be a revision to the revenue forecast. On Tuesday, February 12, 2008, the Governor announced an additional round of recommended budget actions (beyond those announced last fall) based on the revised revenue forecast for both the current year and for 2008-2010. In this case the Governor made recommendations, not amendments.

Listed below are some of the highlights believed to be in the House and Senate versions of the budget for the 2008-10 biennium:

- The General Assembly (both the House and the Senate) has not accepted the Governor's recommendation for an additional two percent reduction for higher education.
- The Governor put \$3.6 million Base Budget Adequacy money for Virginia Tech into the budget. That remains in the budget fully in the House and about half in the Senate.

- The House left all of the Commonwealth Research Initiative money in for the first year, but does not have anything in for the second. The Senate cut the money in half the first year, and then cut it in half again the second year.
- The House proposed a Tuition Moderation Incentive Fund. Universities that keep tuition increases below a specified percentage can receive additional funding.
- Equipment Trust Fund will remain in place.
- The Governor proposed a three percent salary increase for all employees to be implemented on July 1, 2009. The House proposed a two percent increase for the fall of 2008, and put aside some reserve funds to support a modest salary increase in November 2009. The Senate reduced the salary increase to two-and-a-half percent and made it available in November 2009.
- The Governor proposed a General Obligation Bond bill, which is a significant part of the funding. Neither the House nor the Senate voted to include the General Obligation Bond. However, both the House and the Senate have packages that will help Virginia Tech.
- The Governor reduced funding for maintenance reserve in the next couple of years. The House proposed debt financing for the biennium. The Senate provides funding in the second year, but completely eliminates any money in the first year.
- The General Assembly made permanent the approximately 6.25 percent reduction that was announced in the Fall of 2007.
- Virginia Tech submitted a \$3 million amendment to the State for Agency 229, but no action was taken. There is \$200,000 proposed on the Senate side, but it relates to the Equine Medical Center. The Equine Medical Center had to close down for several months due to a quarantine, which caused a loss of revenue that exceeded \$750,000.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m.