

Committee Meeting Minutes

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**North End Center
Training Room 2200 (Reynolds Homestead)**

April 3, 2017

Board Members Present

Tom Ryan, chair, Greta Harris, Debbie Petrine, Monty Abbas (faculty representative), Tara Reel (graduate student representative). Jim Chapman, rector.

Guests

Janice Austin, Kris Bush, Noel Byrd, Wanda Dean, Karen DePauw, Erik Ervin, Jack Finney, Mike Friedlander, Rachel Gabriele, Alan Grant, Cathy Grimes, Kay Heidbreder, Rachel Holloway, Peggy Layne, Theresa Mayer, Steve McKnight, Brett Netto, Kim O'Rourke, Alex Parrish, Steven Paul, Thanassis Rikakis, Karen Eley Sanders, Timothy Sands, Amanda Stanley, Judy Taylor, Pamela Vandevord

OPEN SESSION

- 1. Welcome.** Tom Ryan, chair of the Academic Affairs committee, welcomed committee members and guests. As this will be her last meeting, the chair then recognized Wanda Dean, vice provost for enrollment and degree management, for her years of service to the institution.

The committee unanimously approved a change in the agenda to move the provost's update to the end of the agenda to assure that all business items could be completed in time to allow the committee to join the Buildings & Grounds Committee at 11:00 am for their presentation.

- 2. Approval of Minutes.**

A motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the committee's November 7, 2016 meeting.

- 3. Report of Closed Session Action Items.** The Academic Affairs committee considered two appointments to University Distinguished Professor, eight appointments to emeritus status, five appointments to endowed professorships, 63 faculty research leaves, and the ratification of the faculty personnel changes report.

All resolutions considered in the committee's Closed Session passed unanimously.

4. **Provost's Update.** Thanassis Rikakis, executive vice president and provost, updated the committee on several topics.

Enrollment

The Provost shared a public statement on enrollment growth:

We will grow our student population, our faculty and our staff in Blacksburg, Roanoke and the National Capitol Region. We expect our undergraduate student population across our footprint to grow to 30,000 by 2022 and our graduate population to grow from 7,000 to 10,000 in the same time, also across our three campuses. Our faculty will grow from 1,400 to 1,600 by 2022 and expect we will increase faculty in Roanoke and the NCR as conditions allow.

We expect to strategically grow our Blacksburg campus through successful major projects totally over 750,000 sq. feet of new instructional and research space. As conditions allow we will expand our presence in both Roanoke and the NCR.

The Provost then provided an update on the current enrollment. For the fourth year, the university has seen an increase in applications. This year, there was an 8% increase overall, the most applications in state or out of state, and the most diverse applicant pool. There was a 20% increase in applications from underrepresented and underserved populations. Enrollment Management has worked this year on sending offers earlier, and working collaboratively with colleges to develop financial aid packages.

Impact of International Talent

The Provost provided an overview of the recent statement from President Sands regarding the impact of international talent at Virginia Tech. He highlighted that international talent is critical to the success of the university. Many steps have been taken to assure that faculty, staff and students have access to the information and support they need, and that they feel welcome at Virginia Tech.

Virginia Agricultural and Natural Resources Initiative

The Provost described a new partnership developed by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine with Virginia industry and government entities. The goals of this partnership include economic development in addition to opportunities for experiential learning.

Executive Searches. The search for the dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies resulted in inviting three strong candidates to campus for interviews. In addition, three candidates visited campus over the last two weeks in the search for the vice provost for enrollment management. The search for the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences will begin in the fall. Rosemary Blieszner, Alumni Distinguished Professor and associate dean of the graduate school will be serving as interim dean of the college as the search is conducted.

College Access Collaborative

The College Access Collaborative (CAC) has successfully engaged all 15 of their partner schools. Engagement with students, parents, teachers, superintendents, and school counselors began in the summer of 2016 and will continue at a brisk pace as we close out this academic year. Collaborative programs are underway in all communities with Virginia Tech extended campuses.

Intelligent Infrastructure Cross-Cutting Facilities and Programming

The provost provided an overview of plans for the development of facilities to support this Destination Area, and reviewed the opportunities that the development will provide to more than 150 faculty who will be engaged in this area.

5. Academic Administration

- a) **Resolution to Revise University Distinguished Professor and Alumni Distinguished Professor Language in Faculty Handbook.** Jack Finney, vice provost for faculty affairs, presented for approval a resolution to revise language related to the university distinguished professors and alumni distinguished professors in the faculty handbook.

The resolution passed unanimously.

- b) **Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Language Regarding Reassignment.** Jack Finney presented for approval a resolution to revise language related to reassignment.

The resolution passed unanimously.

- c) **Resolution to Amend Virginia Tech's Voluntary Transitional Retirement Program for Tenured Faculty (University Policy No. 4410)** Jack Finney presented for approval a resolution amending university policy 4410 to enhance the transitional retirement program for tenured faculty.

The resolution passed unanimously.

6. Academic Affairs

- a) **Resolution to Approve the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Engineering.** Pamela VandeVord, professor of biomedical engineering and interim department head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, will present a resolution requesting approval of a bachelor of science degree in biomedical engineering

The committee unanimously approved the resolution to approve a bachelor of science degree in Biomedical Engineering, pending approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

- b) **Resolution to Approve the Establishment of a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech.** Alan Grant, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Erik Ervin, professor of crop and soil environmental sciences and assistant dean of academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, presented a resolution requesting approval of the establishment of a school of plant and environmental sciences.

The committee unanimously approved the resolution to establish a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

- c) **Resolution to Discontinue Major in Economics in Bachelor of Science Degree in Business.** Wanda Dean, vice provost for enrollment and degree management, presented a resolution requesting the discontinuance of the major in economics in the bachelor of science degree in business.

The committee unanimously approved the resolution to discontinue the Major in Economics in Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, pending approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

7. Adjourn