

Constitution of the University Council

Article I. Name

The name of the council is the University Council of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, hereafter referred to as the University Council or the Council.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the University Council and its internal and related components is to assist the pPresident of the uUniversity in formulating and implementing university policy in a manner which that attempts to ensure that Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University always strives effectively toward its goals, which are:

1. To provide an environment conducive to the pursuit of learning, teaching, scholarship, research, and service.
2. To anticipate and meet the educational needs of society in general and the Commonwealth and nation in particular.

The University Council, the senates, and the university and senate commissions constitute the main bodies for policy formation at Virginia Tech. The senate commissions formulate and recommend policies to the senates, which in turn recommend policies to the University Council; the university commissions formulate and recommend policies directly to the University Council. The University Council makes policy recommendations to the president. Final authority rests with the president of the university and the Board of Visitors.

Because the University Council, the senates, the senate and university commissions and the standing committees constitute a legislative system, their charges, memberships, relationships, and the processes they hold in common are defined in the University Council Constitution and Bylaws. All aspects of senates not defined in these documents shall be defined in senate constitutions and bylaws.

In order for this system to function as intended, the roles and authority of its different components as presented in this document must be maintained, and participants in shared governance are expected to adhere to these statements of purpose, function, or charge. Senate and commission charges identify the areas of legislative authority and responsibility for the relevant body. These charges are not exhaustive: when questions arise regarding the relevance of the topic of a resolution to a commission or senate charge, they will be addressed to the parliamentarian, and if necessary, the University Council Cabinet. Per Article III Section 3 of the University Council Bylaws, the University Council Cabinet will review all resolutions for agreement with the commission charge. Determination of the authority of a commission to advance a resolution rests with the University Council Cabinet and the University Council.

Further information about the nature and on-going work of our system of shared governance in all its aspects can be found here: [www.vt.edu/\[xxxxxxx\]](http://www.vt.edu/[xxxxxxx]).

