

**Minutes**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Inn at Virginia Tech, Latham Ballroom CDEF**  
**June 8, 2021**

**Committee Members Present:**

Greta Harris (chair), Melissa Nelson, Carrie Chenery, Jeff Veatch.

Board Members Present: Horacio Valeiras (rector).

Eric Kaufman (faculty representative), Camellia Pastore (undergraduate representative), Tamarah Smith (staff representative), Sabrina Sturgeon (graduate student representative).

**Guests:**

Erick Brooks, Gregory Carter, Chris Childers, Cyril Clarke, Karen DePauw, Jon Deskins, Corey Earles, Jack Finney, Michael Friedlander, Ron Fricker, Amy Friedenberger, Rachel Gabriele, Louisa Havens Gerardo, Ron Gourdie, Alan Grant, Kay Heidbreder, Rachel Holloway, Byron Hughes, Frances Keene, Sharon Kurek, Lee Learman, Ennis McCrery, Michael Mortimer, Kim O'Rourke, Mark Owczarski, Rachel Padgett, John Pastor, Catherine Piche, Roan Parrish, Ellen Plummer, Robin Queen, Tim Sands, Frank Shushok, Rick Sparks, Daniel Sui, Judy Taylor, Tracy Vosburgh, Robert Weiss, Paul Winistorfer, Serena Young.

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. Motion to Return to Open Session.**

The committee voted unanimously to move into Open Session.

**2. Welcome and Acceptance of Agenda.** G. Harris welcomed committee members and attendees.

**The committee voted unanimously to accept the agenda as presented including all items on the Consent Agenda.**

**3. Report of Closed Session Action Items.** G. Harris reported that the committee met in closed session with the Finance and Resource Management Committee and approved seven faculty appointments to emeritus/emerita status, one appointment to an endowed professorship, three research leaves, 113 promotion and tenure appointments, approved the 2021 – 2022 Faculty Salary Program, as amended, and ratified the Personnel Changes Report.

**4. Consent Agenda.** Approval of March 22, 2021 committee minutes, Report of

Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships,

Resolution to Approve Revisions to Policy 13015 Ownership and Control of Research Data, Results, and Related Materials, Resolution to Establish a Continuous Enrollment Policy for Undergraduate Students, Approval of 2021-22 Pratt Fund Budgets (shared with Finance and Resource Management Committee), Report of the 2021-22 Faculty Compensation Plan (shared for information purposes by the Finance and Resource Management Committee), Resolution to Approve School of Environmental Security in College of Natural Resources and Environment, Resolution to Change Name of Department of Interprofessionalism to Department of Health Care Innovation and Implementation Science in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Resolution to Approve the Awarding of Tenure in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Resolution to Approve Bachelor of Science in Plant Science and Discontinue Bachelor of Science in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, Resolution to Discontinue Master of Science in Biomedical Technology Development and Management, Resolution to Discontinue PhD/Ed.D in Career and Technical Education, Resolution to Approve the 2021 - 2022 Student Code of Conduct, Resolution to Approve Amendment to the Acceptable Use Standard of the Acceptable Use Policy Related to Partisan Political Purposes for Employees, Resolution to Amend and Approve Virginia Tech Undergraduate Housing Policy, Resolution to Extend Term Limit for Postdoctoral Associate Faculty Appointment.

- 5. Update: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.** Dean Alan Grant provided the committee with an overview of college accomplishments. Highlights include an increase of 50% (pre-Covid) in study abroad programs and courses, increased extramural funding, and significant Cooperative Extension contacts across the Commonwealth. College initiatives are guided by a vision that includes comprehensive health and wellness, community empowerment, predictive environmental solutions, cultivating lifelong learners, and resilience and productivity through innovation. Dean Grant drew attention to initiatives dedicated to advancing the college and university. These initiatives include the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, capital improvements, increasing extramural funds, addressing vector-borne and chronic diseases, investments in research and Extension to improve agricultural output.
- 6. Provost's Update and Discussion.** Cyril Clarke, executive vice president and provost, provided information on several items. Provost Clarke highlighted four Enterprise Risk Management areas under the purview of the provost. Leadership and Governance is receiving university-wide attention with a representative committee drafting a proposal for a new system of shared governance for the

university. Dr. Eric Kaufman provided the board with information on these efforts during the June 7, 2021 Information Session and a proposal will be brought to the board in the next year. Initiatives are shared across the university to address faculty and staff recruitment and retention. In its Closed Session, the committee reviewed and approved resolutions that are an important element of the recruitment and retention of faculty. These resolutions include endowed professorships, research leaves, promotion and tenure, and the faculty salary program.

The fourth ERM area is enrollment management. The university continuously addresses risk and improvements to enrollment management through the employment of a skilled enrollment management team and the oversight of an enrollment management advisory committee. Virginia Tech had a record year with 42,000 applications for undergraduate admission, a 36% increase over 2020 applications. The deadline to accept offers of admission was May 1 and 7,236 have accepted admission. The expectation is that “melt” over the summer will result in bringing enrollment to goal. Over 4,000 families have signed up for information sessions intended for incoming students. The financial aid office has managed and dispersed aid to 27,000 prospective and returning undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. An enrollment management goal is commencement and 6,864 students graduated, an increase over 2020.

Provost Clarke updated the committee on academic leadership efforts. The search for a dean of the graduate school continues with candidates planning on-campus visits. Dr. Ron Fricker is serving as interim dean of the College of Science and a search is underway for a permanent dean. Richard Blythe has accepted a position to a senior academic position in Australia. An interim dean will be identified for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

7. **Council of College Deans.** Representing the council, Ron Fricker, Interim Dean of the College of Science, provided the committee with remarks. Graduates and their families celebrated commencements in person due in no small part to the planning and dedication on the part of many units across the university. The colleges are implementing new public health guidelines for faculty, staff, and students in a manner in which all can feel safe. Attention will need to be paid to disruptions caused by the pandemic including delays in the collection of research data and subsequent publication of scholarship. The Council of College Deans expresses their collective gratitude and appreciation to the university’s faculty, staff, students, and the administration for guiding and managing the challenges of the past year.
8. **Health Sciences Research Discussion.** C. Clarke and M. Friedlander introduced the theme of the discussion and the panelists. Professor Rob Gourdie is director of

the Center for Heart and Reparative Medicine Research, Rachel Padgett is a doctoral student in biological sciences in translational biology, medicine, and health, and Chris Childers is a medical student whose research is in biomedical engineering and mechanics. Students, staff, and faculty from across the university in various departments contribute to health sciences research. External funding and the university's biomedical imaging and modulation technologies support research in infectious diseases, cancer, brain diseases, and obesity and discoveries are translated and commercialized.

**9. Future Agenda Items.**

**10. Adjourn. Having no further business, the committee adjourned at 11:50.**