

Minutes

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

1872 Salon, The Inn at Virginia Tech
March 22, 2020

Committee Members: Mehul Sanghani (Chair), Letitia Long, Chris Petersen

Other Board Members: Horacio Valeiras (Rector)

VPI&SU Staff: Janice Austin, Lori Buchanan, Holli Drewry, Greg Fansler, Key Heidbreder, Kim O'Rourke

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm.

- 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks.** Mr. Mehul Sanghani, Chair of the Governance and Administration Committee, welcomed committee members, guests, and invited participants. He explained that this committee does not typically convene at the March BOV meeting, but is meeting today because there is a timely matter under the committee's purview that requires board action.
- 2. Approval Minutes of the November 16, 2021, Meeting.** The committee reviewed and approved the Minutes of the November 16, 2021, Meeting
- 3. Resolution to Approve the Constitution and Bylaws for the Administrative and Professional (A/P) Faculty Senate.** The committee reviewed and approved the Resolution to Approve the Constitution and Bylaws for the Administrative and Professional (A/P) Faculty Senate. Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Chair, Holli Drewry, provided some background on the resolution.

Teaching and research Faculty, as well as staff, receive significant representation from both their own respective senates and commissions. In contrast, A/P Faculty at Virginia Tech are represented by a single commission, despite the fact that they account for 25% of all university employees and 40% of those designated as faculty, with approximately 2,000, A/P faculty on campus compared to 3,400 staff and 2,700 teaching and research faculty. It is for this reason that the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs presented a resolution to establish an A/P Faculty Senate in February of 2020. Upon receiving approval to move forward with establishing the proposed senate, a 20-member task group

drafted the constitution and by-laws currently being presented to the committee. The documents outline the membership of the senate, which includes 30 senators from various areas of the university, including extension, research, academic support, student affairs, athletics, and the general professional and administrative populations. Senators will serve for three-year terms with the opportunity to serve two consecutive terms if reappointed, and senate officers will be elected annually by the senate with eligibility for re-election with a two consecutive term limit. Senate membership will also include six non-voting members, including one faculty, staff, undergraduate, and graduate student representative, the past president of the senate (if no longer a senator), and the Vice President for Human Resources. Additional details regarding senate membership and governance can be found in constitution and by-laws accompanying the resolution. It has not been determined yet if there will be an AP Faculty Representative to the Board, as discussions are currently underway regarding the representative selection process and the future of the governance structure.

- 4. Future Agenda Items and Closing Remarks.** Mr. Mehul Sanghani, discussed future agenda items for the committee and offered closing remarks.

The annual self-assessment will be distributed electronically to the Board members, representatives, and select administrators, and the outcome will be reported at the June meeting.

Mr. Petersen will also serve as Chair at the June meeting, at which the committee hopes to discuss the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Self-Expression, state laws on transparency, and potential issues with the return to in-person instruction, faculty and staff regulations in relation to returning to campus, and the telework policy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:29 pm.