

**Minutes**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Inn at Virginia Tech, Latham Ballroom CDEF**  
**10:00 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Greta Harris (chair), Melissa Nelson, Carrie Chenery, Jeff Veatch (electronically).  
Eric Kaufman, (faculty representative), Tamarah Smith (staff representative).

**Guests:**

Laura Belmonte, Cyril Clarke, Karen DePauw, Corey Earles, Juan Espinoza, Jack Finney, Rachel Gabriel, Henri Gendreau, Matthew Hulver, X.J. Meng, Ellen Plummer, Judy Taylor, Paul Winistorfer.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

**The committee voted unanimously to move into Open Session.**

**2. Welcome and Acceptance of Agenda.** Greta Harris, chair of the committee, welcomed committee members and attendees to the Open Session.

**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 and approved 10 faculty appointments to emeritus/emerita status, seven appointments to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships, one tenure appointment, and ratified the Personnel Changes Report.

**4. Consent Agenda.** Approval of August 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships. Resolution to Revise Graduate Honor System Constitution. Pratt Fund Overview. Resolution for Approval of Reappointments to the Virginia Coal and Energy Research and Development Advisory Board. Resolution for Exclusion of Certain Officers/Directors.

**5. Update: College of Natural Resources and Environment.** Paul Winistorfer, dean of the college, offered the committee an overview of the progress and accomplishments of the college. In addition to programs on the Blacksburg campus, the college's Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability is located in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area. The college is ranked first of its kind in the U.S., and nationally ranked academic programs include forestry and packaging. The college is competitive in several areas including offering unique degree programs, a robust and dedicated advising center, and outreach efforts to employers. Future goals include advancing the college's presence in the greater Washington D.C. metro area, engaging with the growing Innovation Campus, and growing research expenditures.

- 6. Council of College Deans Update. Council of College Deans Update.** Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS) representing the Council of College Deans, reported to the committee on several items. The colleges continue to manage and respond to the additional stress on instruction, research, and promotion and tenure processes due to the pandemic. Deans are monitoring the impact of a new administration in Washington, D.C. on federal and state budgetary and policy decisions. Hiring of faculty is impacted by budget cuts and identifying essential hires for instruction and academic support. Colleges and faculty are planning for spring semester instruction and hoping to offer increased face-to-face learning. The deans are requesting that faculty and student support efforts include as many live interactions as is safe and possible. Transdisciplinary learning and discovery is a priority for all colleges. For example, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is establishing an Academy of Transdisciplinary Studies along with interdisciplinary, cross-college minors. Deans are partnering to provide forums in which current issues are discussed. For example, CLAHS co-sponsored with the College of Science on a forum called “Living with a Pandemic.”

The College of Science has established an Academy of Data Science built upon the college’s successful model of the Academy of Integrated Science. The college is establishing collaborations for transdisciplinary work in the science of data science and data science applied to science. Within the college, the departments of math and statistics are working together on an M.S. degree in data science. The college is raising philanthropic funds to support faculty fellows.

The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCOSOM) increased its class size from 42 and, in July 2020, admitted 49 students. The VTCOSOM launched a curricular domain called Health Systems Science and Interprofessional Practice. Clinical training resumed in July 2020 and students are on track to meet curricular requirements through a combination of in-person and virtual learning experiences. Applications for the incoming class currently exceed 6,000, which is 30% higher than the VTCOSOM’s previous record.

The committee asked questions and discussed the benefits and challenges associated with requiring student attendance and the use of cameras in on-line instruction. Elements of instruction from which the university has learned this year include that students like having on-line options, teleworking for faculty and staff seems to improve productivity for some, caregiving remains a challenge for many faculty, and using zoom for guest speakers helps manage speaker costs and can draw a larger audience than what would be possible in person.

- 7. Provost’s Update and Discussion.** Cyril Clarke, executive vice president and provost, provided information on several items. Spring semester planning is occurring within a three-fold commitment to mitigating health safety, sustaining academic quality, and accomplishing this within the university’s resource capacity.

The spring semester schedule has been announced and maintains previously established start and end dates. The semester will begin with online instruction as move-in of residential students is completed at which time in-person instruction will begin. The initial overlap of online instruction with move-in is intended to engage students and discourage social congregating that lead to a spike in infection in the fall. There will be no extended spring break. To provide students with downtime and stress relief during the spring semester, there will be five, one-day breaks distributed across the semester in which classes will not be held. Plans for spring semester align with public health advice to avoid congregating social settings.

Spring semester instruction will continue the mode of delivery used over the fall semester. Final decisions rest with faculty, in consultation with department heads, for whether courses are in-person, online, or in a hybrid format. Faculty members have been encouraged to consider ways in which to increase in-person learning while maintaining the university's commitment to mitigating health safety. Synchronous delivery is encouraged for on-line instruction. In-person instruction contributes to student wellness and positive experiences of academic quality. Approximately 30% of courses are being delivered either in-person or hybrid. The window for requesting spring classes closed on November 10 and indicate a positive trend. Residential housing contracts, including cancellations, are stable and an 85% occupancy rate is anticipated.

Undergraduate admissions applications are up. The university is committed to maintaining a 30,000 person cap on undergraduate enrollment. In addition, the university is committed to increasing out of state student, underserved, and minority student enrollments. The university is using robust modeling to manage and forecast enrollments. Undergraduate applications are down nationally, however, Virginia Tech's applications are up 30% and the university is experiencing increases in applications from students who are out of state, international, African American, Latinx, and first-generation. Reducing barriers in the application process and using the common application has been noticed by various communities and has improved the university's draw of applications.

In graduate education, the provost's graduate education task force released its report and recommendations. Fourteen recommendations are summarized in four areas:

- Acquisition of extramural funding necessary to grow enrollment
- Employment conditions for graduate students, including salary, considering not charging tuition after completion of non-research coursework, the duration of support over the years of a student's graduate career, and improved mentorship and professional development
- Assessing outcomes of graduate education
- Ways in which colleges can improve their involvement in graduate student admissions and in graduate student goals and strategies

Provost Clarke thanked Dr. Karen DePauw for her outstanding service and contributions to strengthening and leading the university's graduate education

programs and initiatives. The committee congratulated Dr. DePauw on her retirement and thanked her for her many years of service to the university and her advocacy for graduate students.

Provost Clarke introduced Dr. Daniel Sui as the vice president for research and innovation.

8. **Transdisciplinary Learning and Discovery.** X. J. Meng, University Distinguished Professor from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, reported on establishing a new center, the Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, which will address many issues of relevance to the current pandemic along with basic immunological sciences. The new center has been supported by the Fralin Life Sciences Institute.

Matthew Hulver, Professor from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Executive Director of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute (FLSI), described ways in which a large, well-funded and well-staffed institute can move life science research forward. Investments in research programs by the FLSI will be on large problems facing the nation and world. FLSI will provide experiential learning opportunities for undergraduates, professional opportunities for graduate students, and facilitate partnerships with the FLSI and relevant academic colleges. FLSI as an investment institute does not take overhead from grants, allowing colleges to use those funds to grow their research programs. The major focus is on environment and health interactions and major “wicked” problems.

Three goals for FLSI: (1) Paradigm shifting science: the most impactful issues facing society; (2) Next leaders: developing graduate students as the next scientific leaders and provide education for undergraduates to pursue graduate training; and (3) Impacting communities: both basic discovery and translational science to impact communities.

The committee discussed the exciting work represented in these efforts and the opportunities for seeking large impactful grants to address the top life sciences problems facing society.

9. **Agenda Items for March 2020 meeting.** The chair asked for topics for the committee’s agenda. Ideas include an update from University Libraries, discussion on the university’s involvement in economic development, updates on well being and mental health of the university community including student athletes.
10. **Adjourn.** Having no further business, the committee adjourned at 11:55.

### **MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has convened in closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge,

- (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open session requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed session to which this certification resolution applies, and
- (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors.

**Acceptance of Agenda**

**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The chair of the committee will review and ask for acceptance of the Open Session Agenda and items as listed on the Open Session Consent Agenda.

**Report of Closed Session Items**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**November 19, 2020**

The Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee met in closed session and voted to approve:

- 10 appointments to emeritus/emerita status
- 7 appointments to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships
- 1 faculty appointment with tenure

And ratified the Faculty Personnel Changes Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2020.

These matters will be brought for a vote to the full board during its Closed Session.

**Open Session Consent Agenda**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**November 16, 2020**

- A. Approval of August 24 Meeting Minutes
- B. Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships
- \*C. Resolution to Revise Graduate Honor System Constitution
- \*D. Pratt Fund Overview (shared with Finance and Resource Management)
- \*E. Resolution for Approval of Reappointments to the Virginia Coal and Energy Research and Development Advisory Board
- \*F. Resolution for Exclusion of Certain Officers/Directors



**Minutes**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Room G101A/B**  
**Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC**  
**Monday, August 24, 2020**  
**10:00 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Greta Harris (chair), Melissa Nelson, Carrie Chenery  
Eric Kaufman, (faculty representative), Sabrina Sturgeon (graduate and professional student representative), Camellia Pastore (undergraduate student representative), Tamarah Smith (staff representative). **Committee Members Absent:** Jeff Veatch

**Additional Board Members Present:**

Horacio Valeiras, Letitia Long, Shelley Butler Barlow, C.T. Hill, Anna James, Sharon Brickhouse Martin, Melissa Nelson, Kim O'Rourke, Chris Petersen, Mehul Sanghani, Preston White. **Board Members Absent:** Ed Baine

**Guests:**

Heather Adams, Kathy Alexander, Tom Archibald, Laura Belmonte, Kim Blair, Eric Brooks, Cyril Clarke, Al Cooper, Karen DePauw, Corey Earles, Dawn Evans, Kari Evans, Jack Finney, Henri Gendreau, Guru Ghosh, Dan Givens, Sarah Glenn, Daniel Guilliams, Kay Heidbreder, Byron Hughes, Lee Learman, Justin Noble, Plummer, Mark Owczarski, Frank Shushok, John Tarter, Sridhar Venkataramana.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

**The committee voted unanimously to move into Open Session.**

**2. Welcome and Acceptance of Agenda.** Greta Harris, chair of the committee, welcomed committee members and attendees to the Open Session. The morning tour of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC was informative and highlighted exciting research areas.

**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 and approved nine faculty appointments to emeritus/emerita status, five appointments to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships, and two reappointments to Alumni Distinguished Professor.

**4. Consent Agenda.** June 2, 2020 Electronic Meeting Minutes, Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships, Ratification of the 2020-2021 Faculty Handbook, and a Resolution for Exclusion of Certain

Officers/Directors.

5. **Overview of Academic Affairs:** Jack Finney, vice provost for faculty affairs reviewed the areas under the leadership of the provost including academic deans, vice provosts, and academic vice presidents. Under the approval purview of the ARSA committee are academic degrees, undergraduate, professional, and graduate student policies, and approval of policies for faculty employees of all types. Faculty employment actions approved by ARSA include promotion and tenure, research leaves, appointments to emeritus or emerita status, endowed professorships, and appointments to University Distinguished Professors and Alumni Distinguished Professors. Appropriate to the type of resolution, ARSA reviews and approves actions at each meeting in a Closed Session or in an Open Session.
6. **Report from the Council of College Deans.** Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and representative to the committee from the Council of College Deans, reported to the committee on several items. The Council of College Deans meets regularly to discuss topics of mutual interest. The council provides an excellent platform for collegiate exchange and support across the academic enterprise. The last several months have been dedicated to addressing current circumstances such as budget reductions, the plans for which are due August 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, deans have been managing their college within the constraints of the hiring freeze, COVID-19 planning for course scheduling, and classroom configurations. Faculty members continue to express concerns with being able to keep up properly with family caregiving including youth and elders. The schedule for the local schools presents a challenge as do the limited options for child care. The Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine has several highlights that include a substantial grant from the National Institutes of Health and a successful student enrollment in the newly accredited B.S. in Public Health.
7. **Discussion: Global Land Grant.** Guru Ghosh, vice president for outreach and international affairs, summarized the university's global plan for responding to the pandemic, including bringing more than 400 university students and faculty home from locations abroad, supporting international students and faculty who remained in the U.S., and communicating with numerous prospective students and faculty on issues related to travel. Panel members Kathleen Alexander, professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, in the College of Natural Resources and environment, Tom Archibald, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership and Community Education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Venkataramana Sridhar, associate professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, presented on their global research and outreach programs and the integration of their work in the domestic and international science and policy aspects of responding to COVID-19. Alexander works in Botswana, Archibald in Senegal, and Sridhar in Southeast Asia. Their work engages Virginia Tech, global partners, government agencies, and community partners. The global and local reach of their work, termed "glocal," demonstrates the impact and reach of Virginia Tech's faculty.

**8. Provost's Update and Discussion.** Cyril Clarke, executive vice president and provost, introduced Dan Givens who began his tenure June 1, 2020 as dean of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Dean Givens holds DVM and Ph.D. degrees, is boarded in theriogenology and microbiology, and comes to the Virginia Tech from Auburn University. The university is grateful for the outstanding leadership and service of Greg Daniel, professor of small animal clinical sciences, who served as interim dean of the college. Don Taylor, the Charles O. Gordon Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has been appointed executive vice provost effective July 1, 2020. His leadership roles include service as head in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, interim dean of the College of Engineering, vice provost for learning systems innovation and effectiveness, and interim vice president for research and innovation. In this role, executive vice provost Taylor will support the day-to-day management of activities in academic enterprise and improve strategic capabilities of the office of the provost. The search for a new vice president for research and innovation continues.

The university's progress towards reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is meeting all deadlines. The university's self-study is the first step and is on target for submission by the September 9, 2020 deadline. Subsequent steps towards reaccreditation include a November 2020 off-site review, submission of any additional reports requested by the off-site review team due February 1, 2021, submission of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) required by the SACSCOC, and an on-site review team visit in mid-March 2021. The QEP is a document that outlines the university's processes for identifying emerging issues from institutional assessment and focuses on learning outcomes aimed at accomplishing the mission of the university.

The final outcome of enrollments will be determined at census in September 2020. Given the circumstances, enrollment is satisfactory. As of August 22, 2020, the university's undergraduate enrollments include 6,632 freshmen (43 fewer than the 6,675 goal), 1,876 out-of-state freshmen (248 fewer than the 2,124 goal, and 28.3% of total), 109 international freshmen (328 fewer than the 437 goal), 1,257 transfer students (125 more than the 1,132 goal). Deferrals include 96 to spring 2021 (1 semester), 292 to fall 2021 (1 year), 39 beyond fall 2021, for a total of 427 deferrals. The academic profile of the freshman class: 3.97 average high school grade point average, and average score of 1271 on the SAT. The academic profile of transfer students is an average college GPA of 3.47. The diversity of the freshman class includes: 39% underserved (USS)/underrepresented (URM), 20% URM, 20% first generation, 18% Pell-eligible, and 3% international. The provost expressed appreciation for the university's Enrollment Management Team and the Enrollment Advisory Council.

Preparation for the fall semester was driven by a commitment to optimize three primary factors: public health, academic program quality, and resource capacity. In

addition, planning and implementation is guided by a commitment to shared responsibility by the office of the provost, the senior vice president and chief business officer, and the emergency management team. The cabinet of the Faculty Senate and the provost have kept in regular communication. In addition, communication between the university and the Town of Blacksburg has been important. The health-risk mitigation strategy includes: isolating infected individuals including a 14-day quarantine for students before arrival, reducing spread of infection through the use of masks and distancing, identifying and supporting infected individuals through testing, contact tracing and isolation/quarantine. Key partners are the local and state departments of health. Efforts continue to recognize and provide support for challenges such as student mental health, child and dependent care responsibilities, and the concerns of faculty on the impact of the pandemic on career progression.

**9. Agenda Items for November 2020 meeting.**

The chair of the committee will contact committee members for topics to include on agendas for subsequent ARSA committee meetings.

**10. Adjourn.** Having no further business, the committee adjourned at 11:15.

## REPORT

### **Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (5)**

**November 16, 2020**

The president and executive vice president and provost have confirmed the reappointment of the following faculty to endowed chair, professorship, or fellowship appointments with a salary and/or operating supplement provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

#### **College of Engineering (5)**

Yue Joseph Wang	Grant A. Dove Professorship of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Saifur Rahman	Joseph R. Loring Professorship of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Masoud Agah	Virginia Microelectronics Consortium Professorship of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Jeffrey Reed	Willis G. Worcester Professorship of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Hesham Rakha	Samuel Reynolds Pritchard Professorship



# COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Paul M. Winistorfer, Dean  
Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee  
Board of Visitors  
November 16, 2020



# Who We Are Today

We've been stewarding natural resources since 1925...

- **4 Academic Departments in Blacksburg**
  - Fish and Wildlife Conservation
  - Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation
  - Geography
  - Sustainable Biomaterials

**Over 1,000 undergraduate students**  
**Over 250 graduate students**

**77 Tenure Track Faculty - 7 Instructors - 57 Research Faculty**

**Research Expenditures Average \$15-16 million annually**

**Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability – Washington DC Metro Area**



**Funded: 60% Agency 208**  
**40% Agency 229**

# Who We Are Today

**We are the #1 ranked college**  
of our kind in the U.S. for the 4th consecutive year by College Factual

**We are the #1 ranked forestry program**  
in the U.S. for the 4th consecutive year by College Factual

**We are the #4 ranked packaging program**  
in the U.S. by Universities.com





# Programs/Initiatives: Our Competitive Advantage with National Peers

## Unique degree programs in the mid-Atlantic:

- packaging systems and design
- meteorology
- sustainable biomaterials
- environmental informatics
- water: resources, policy, and management

## The Advising Center

- professional advisor for each academic department
- college recruiter

## Director of Employer Relations

funded with a private gift

## Director of Diversity and Inclusion

## Graduate Education in Washington DC

*Your advisor:  
your partner for  
academic success*

From your first days on campus at orientation until you walk across the stage at graduation, your academic advisor will be there for you. Whether you need help choosing your classes, find yourself re-thinking a major or minor, or want to celebrate an academic milestone, stay in touch and get the most out of your partnership.



# How Are We Thinking About the Future?



1. **Faculty Retirements** – 15-20 retirements in the next 5 years (diversity, refocus research?)
2. **Research expenditures have plateaued at \$15-16 million** – Why – what is the context?
3. **Undergraduate enrollment growth in the future** – we must scale the college as VT grows; we have demand and a goal to grow to 1,500 undergraduates by 2025
4. **Faculty Task-Force is examining a curriculum initiative to create a B.S. in urban natural Resources**
5. **Enhanced Presence in Washington DC area** (impact, reputation, engagement, revenue)
- 5 6. **Space-Facilities-Infrastructure**

# How Are We Thinking About the Future?



**Enhanced presence in Greater Washington DC metro area** – demonstrated success with our current graduate degree program over past decade – 10<sup>th</sup> cohort (35 students annually) of Executive Master of Natural Resources degree. Also, online format enrolls 80-100 annually. A unique competitive advantage for VT/CNRE.

**How does CNRE “face” the Innovation Campus and broader VT Initiatives in the greater DC metro area?**

Establishment of the School of Environmental Security as a vehicle for further evolution of our college graduate degree footprint in the greater Washington DC metro area. Moving into governance with proposal.





Wallace Hall

Cheatham Hall

Wild Animal Research Center

Brooks Forest Products Center



# Center Woods – Wild Animal Research Center - 39 acres



Construction of a new building in Center Woods – offices, labs, and classroom. Agency 229 priority for state support.

Google Earth





THANK YOU!



**Council of College Deans Update**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**November 16, 2020**

Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, serving as a liaison with the council of college deans will update the committee on behalf of the council.

**Provost's Update**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**November 16, 2020**

Cyril Clarke, executive vice president and provost, will provide an update.



**Panel Discussion: Transdisciplinary Learning and Discovery**  
**ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**November 16, 2020**

*C. Clarke will lead a discussion on the various ways in which transdisciplinary learning and discovery is being advanced in the university's institutes, curriculum, and with the engagement of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.*

- > Matthew W. Hulver  
Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors  
Professor, Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
- > X.J. Meng  
Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Diseases  
University Distinguished Professor  
Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology  
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine*

**The Chair of the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will discuss possible agenda items for future meetings.**

**The Chair of the Academic, Research, and Student  
Affairs Committee will adjourn the committee  
meeting.**