


PRESIDENTIAL POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. 297

To: All Virginia Tech Employees and Students
From: Timothy D. Sands 
Date: February 1, 2016
Subject: Formation of a University Governance Task Force

Approved by the Student Government Association:	November 17, 2015
Approved by the Graduate Student Assembly:	November 19, 2015
Approved by Faculty Senate:	December 1, 2015
Approved by the Commission on Student Affairs:	December 3, 2015
Approved by Staff Senate:	December 4, 2015
Approved by the Commission on Faculty Affairs:	December 4, 2015
Approved by the University Council:	February 1, 2016
Approved by the President:	February 1, 2016
Effective Date:	February 1, 2016

University Council approved a resolution on the formation of a university governance joint task force.

Following is the text of the resolution.

WHEREAS, a governance system in which powers and duties are shared by the major constituent groups within Virginia Tech, which include but are not limited to, the undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and administrators, is necessary to the progress of the university; and

WHEREAS, the system of shared governance at Virginia Tech has not been substantially modified in more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, a number of problems in the existing structure of governance at Virginia Tech may lead to a lack of participation in governance and/or lack of effective communication between the constituent groups and their representatives on governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution on Shared Governance proposed by the Faculty Senate and Commission on Faculty Affairs in Fall 2015 aims to partially address issues associated with the current system of shared governance; and

Invent the Future

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate Resolution on Shared Governance proposes a modification to parts of the university governance structure and, while not a permanent solution to challenges within governance, will present the opportunity for all constituent groups to study its effectiveness and further issues with the current shared governance system; and

WHEREAS, in conversations between various constituent groups on campus, it has become evident that changes to the current system of shared governance may be necessary for Virginia Tech to progress as a leading institution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the President and Provost of Virginia Tech shall create with the advice of all constituent groups a University Governance Task Force consisting of members of the undergraduate and graduate student bodies, faculty, staff, and university administrators, which shall be tasked with analyzing the consultative role of the respective constituent groups and collecting data on the impacts of the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution on Shared Governance (CFA 2015-16B). In addition, based on the data that are analyzed, the task force shall no later than twelve months after its formation present any recommendations for changes to the system of shared governance intended to enhance the consultative role of the constituent groups.

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