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## GENERAL FACULTY COUNCIL

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### MINUTES

**Special Meeting, Tuesday, June 22, 2012**

3:00 - 4:30pm

Zehmer Hall Conference Center

Present: B. Kessler, K. Reid, A. Caelleigh, A. Ingram, R. Patterson, G. Saathoff, J. Sitler, M. Slon, C. Smith, P. MacIntyre, T. Buer, S. Stewart, K. McClurken, D. Whaley, J. Stertz, P. Kaiserlian, H. Shulman, K. Buchanan, J. Chestnutt, S. Wells, J. Baker, D. Ryan, B. Shobe, E. Johnson, M. Johnson, T. Nold, A. Clayton

1. The meeting was called to order by Barbara Kessler. A quorum was established.

#### *Business*

2. Barbara Kessler: The purpose of this special meeting is to discuss the Board of Visitor's decision to force and accept President Teresa Sullivan's resignation. We will receive an update from Chris Holstege, Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate, and address a proposed resolution to be issued by the General Faculty Council on behalf its constituents.
3. Chris Holstege: The faculty is galvanized and is proving it can be a significant force. Students, Faculty and others will hold a vigil at the Rotunda on Sunday, June 24 at 2pm. The Board of Visitors will meet on Tuesday to discuss the situation and another gathering at the Rotunda will be held to coincide with the meeting. Task forces have been established and are listed on the Faculty Senate website for those interested in joining. These will move forward regardless of what happens on Tuesday. Faculty can also join a letter writing campaign to communicate concerns to the governor and state legislators. Information is available on the Faculty Senate website. Other universities are watching, and we have an opportunity to show that a unified faculty can have a voice in university governance.
4. Resolution: A draft resolution is read and discussed by all present. Many ideas were discussed as a way of expressing a lack of confidence in the Board of Visitors, support for Teresa Sullivan, and the need for restructuring Board of Visitors membership including the addition of faculty representation. Several changes were made to the wording of the resolution. The resolution was adopted as amended. (Copy attached.) Those present voted unanimously in favor.

#### *New Business*

5. Issue raised: Many faculty have been nervous about speaking out during this time. The Council should take up a serious discussion about the Expectation of Continued Employment and other concerns related to job security. To be added to September meeting agenda.

#### *Adjournment*

**Next Meeting:** September, 12, 2012

## Resolution Calling for the Reinstatement of President Sullivan

The General Faculty Council is both gravely concerned by the actions of the Board of Visitors surrounding the resignation of President Sullivan, and greatly impressed by the united and firm resolve of the UVa faculty and wider community during the current situation.

We strongly support and reaffirm our endorsement of the Faculty Senate's June 17 resolution and June 21 statement.

The Council acknowledges with appreciation the vice rector's resignation, and the Board's agreement to convene an open meeting in order to address the reinstatement of the president. We commend Dean Carl Zeithaml for suspending negotiations with the Board regarding his status as interim president.

We believe the Board has failed to act in the best interest of the University. We also believe that Rector Dragas' statements fail to justify President Sullivan's forced resignation and the process by which it was accomplished. Furthermore, installing an interim president and searching for a new president will hinder rather than help the University respond to the challenges it faces.

Therefore, it is resolved, that the General Faculty Council:

1. Expresses its strong support of President Sullivan,
2. Expresses its lack of confidence in the Rector and the Board of Visitors,
3. Requests that the Board of Visitors provide a clear and coherent explanation of its reasons for securing and accepting President Sullivan's resignation, for the process by which it did so, and for selecting an interim president without faculty consultation,
4. Requests faculty representation as voting members on the Board of Visitors, and a review and restructuring of the Board to better represent a cross-section of constituencies within the University,
5. Urges the Board to act forthwith to prevent further damage to the University community by reinstating President Sullivan on Tuesday, June 26th, and
6. Requests the resignation of Rector Dragas from the Board of Visitors.

We look forward to working with all who love, support, and respect the University to restore our community of trust.

This resolution was adopted in an open meeting of the General Faculty Council on June 22, 2012. The General Faculty Council represents 1750 non-tenure-track faculty and members of the senior professional research staff. [www.virginia.edu/generalfacultycouncil](http://www.virginia.edu/generalfacultycouncil)