

Minutes of Meeting of The Staff Senate October 17, 1991

The monthly meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order by Acting president Sherilyn McConnell at 6:05 p.m. at the College Center of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Two announcements: 1) the Faculty Senate would like to co sponsor with the Staff Senate a Benefits Fair, and 2) the evening's meeting agenda would be restructured to accommodate Greg Ritter who needed to leave as soon as his presentation was finished.

Ann related that there were some concerns over the "Release Time for Staff Employees" memo that was sent to the Deans, Directors, and Department Heads that need to be addressed. Ann then turned the discussion over to Greg.

Greg pointed out that there was a mixed reaction to the memo and he indicated that he would like to see it redone. The reaction to allowing release time to employees for them to attend university governance committees was questioned by some supervisors. He stated VPI is the ONLY university in the state to allow shared governance by staff and that there are a lot of hurdles and objections to work through and overcome. The greatest concerns seemed to focus on whether overtime would be paid for nonexempt; how much time should be allowed for attending meetings; and what, if any, financial support would be expected of the departments.

This is everyone's issue and needs some give and take on all sides. Ann suggested that after the discussion during the meetings, that representatives of the different organizations put together a memo addressing the issues for one last time. It is very important that a commitment to a shared governance continue and that this memo not contradict these efforts!

Sheri opened the meeting for discussion for 10 minutes. Some comments: Some did not receive the guidelines (there is an updated mailing list); would the resources be available for the CSAC as well as the Faculty Senate, will dues be collected (the faculty associations do not collect dues they use college resources); some staff associations have not even met and elected officers.

Ann then announced some good news. There will be an onsite coordinator for Va Tech who will bring the VA CommonHealth preventative health maintenance program to the university. A one time risk appraisal screening charge of \$5 will be required. This new program will be initiated early in 1992.

Pam Orcutt called the roll. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

There were no senate committee reports since representatives have not been selected. The minutes from the various committees will be submitted in the packet that is mailed to each senator prior to the monthly meeting.

Spencer Foster conducted the election of officers for the coming year. He submitted the names and called for nominations from the floor for president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and parliamentarian. There were no nominations from the floor. Each candidate gave a brief history of their involvement in the university. The following were elected: President - Sheri McConnell, V. President - Pam Orcutt, Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Hise, Parliamentarian - John Rudd.

At the last meeting, there were requests for flow charts displaying the different associations of the college. They are rather extensive, so it was decided that upon request to Pam, one could receive a copy.

There will be a survey mailed to all the senators asking their preferences as to the day of the week and time to hold future meetings. If you had not filled out your information sheet that was on the back of the packet of the first meeting, please do so and return to Sheri.

Charles Stott submitted a Resolution on Faculty Support to the Staff Senate. It was moved and seconded that it be presented; but with one small change. Dr. Larry Moore should be changed to Dr. Larry D. Moore as there are more than one Dr. Larry Moore on campus.

The constitution and by-laws need some further revisions. They will be voted upon once some corrections are made.

Professor Marilyn Nordstedt congratulated the senate on their newly elected officers. She was happy to hear the resolution of faculty support and offered to help in resolving any problems that might arise.

There was some general discussion on the Employee Evaluations that are being conducted this month. It was felt that the process be thoroughly analyzed to ensure that what becomes the established policy addresses some specific concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.