

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Staff Senate

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Thursday, October 20, 1994  
Room 102, Phase II, Vet Medicine

Senators Present: Danny Belcher, Janet Bryant, Shannon Casey, Billie Cline, Joann Craven, Judy Davis, Marge Dellers, Patrick Donohoe, Les Fuller, Leslie Graham, Wanda Grubb, Patty Hall, Brenda Husser, Mark Kidd, Richard Lovegrove, Bhaba Misra, Trevia Moses, Valerie Myers, Brenda Neidigh, Fred Phillips, Peggy Rasnick, Wyatt Sasser, Widget Shannon, Elaine Southworth, Tony Sutphin, Sarah Wheeler, Deb Williams, Debbie Wilson

Alternates Present: Netta Eisler for Mary Holliman, Beverly Parkins for Mary Pennington, Lorena Sowder, Vivien Rich

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Guest Speaker

President Sasser introduced Rona Vrooman who gave information about the Virginia Tech Pilot Mentoring Program for Staff Women. The Goals are to sponsor and support professional development activities for staff women; to identify resource materials related to personal and professional development; and to establish a mentoring program for staff women.

Important dates for program are October 24 - Application Deadline, November 11 - matches assigned, month of November - protege workshop, meet with mentor, develop learning agreement, December through June - ongoing meetings, 2 mentor lunch meetings, 4 protege workshops.

Participants will be expected to sign a learning agreement. Those interested in participating must fill out a Protege' Information Sheet or a Mentor Information Sheet and return to Vrooman by October 24. Her e-mail address is VROOMAN @ VTVM1.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the September 15, 1994 Staff Senate meeting were approved with the correction of Beverly Parkins for Mary Pennington, not Fred Phillips.

Senate Committee Reports

Communications Committee had nothing to report.

Policies and Issues - Senator Dellers stated that a full report

is available.

She expressed concern that attendance at the meetings is poor and if members feel that it is not important enough to attend, then perhaps they don't need to meet.

President Sasser expressed concern that communication is poor campus-wide and some people are not getting the information.

Elections and Nominations - Senator Rasnick distributed ballots and brief biographies to fill the vacancy on the Commission on Administrative & Professional Faculty Affairs. She also reported that the Fall mailouts were sent out today. She requested that each Senator be sure that they get the mailout to the association chairpersons. They are hoping to get a lot of names to build the database to fill future vacancies.

There was much discussion about confusion about who is supposed to be serving on the Councils, Commissions and Committees. Alternate Eisler offered to consult John Ashby about getting the lists printed in the Spectrum. Some meeting dates and times don't fit the work schedules. Senator Sutphin stated that alternates should be utilized when Senators cannot attend.

Dr. Moore has been invited to attend the November Staff Senate meeting.

President Sasser asked the Senate if we are losing sight of what our purpose is. He feels that: 1) we are the watchdog for staff; and 2) people serving on the councils, commissions, and committees are responsible for getting a brief report of the meeting to the Senate each time there is a meeting. It can be three months before the minutes are approved, and it is not necessary to wait for them. A two or three sentence report is all that is necessary. President Sasser requested that the Senators please make the effort to get these reports, either electronically or hard copy, to Secretary Myers for dissemination to Senators.

Commission on Public Service and Extension - discussion is being carried out to propose some additional uses of Extension offices as a "front door" to the community where John Q. Public can walk into any extension office in the state and get information and help about Virginia Tech Services. For example, it could be a place where prospective students could go to pick up catalogues and applications. Please provide any input you might have to DEBW @ VTVM1.

Strategic Budgeting and Planning - College of Education restructuring plan has been voted on and has passed.

Senator Misra expressed concern that there is mandatory attendance in some classes. This came up because faculty complained that in core classes there was a high likelihood that attendance would be low. They can deduct points from your grade

if you miss too many classes. In cases of inclement weather, it may be impossible for commuters to get to class. Also, classified staff that are taking classes may not be able to attend the required number of classes because of job responsibilities. SGA is going to bring this issue before University Council.

Senator Misra will write a resolution requesting that this policy be resended.

Parking/Transportation will be meeting every other month this year, rather than every month.

Academic Support met and discussed how to help the support units that need to be available to help the students. They also discussed the issue that faculty are being encouraged to take into account that there are numerous religious holidays observed by students.

#### Old Business

Governor's Blue Ribbon Strike Force - since our role is to be a watchdog group, President Sasser would like to form a subcommittee. He asked Senator Williams to chair the group. It will become a standing agenda item. Their charge is to keep informed on what the Strike Force is doing, what changes they are making, etc.

#### New Business

Senator Williams announced that Dwight Shelton is interim budget director, Lenwood McCoy is interim controller.

President Sasser received a letter from Dr. Torgersen requesting that the Staff Senate appoint someone to serve on selection committee for the Presidents Award for Excellence. Information has been sent out. Senator Sutphin volunteered to serve.

President Sasser expressed concern that academic year appointments could be used to abuse. It allows classified staff to be appointed for 9 or 10 months. They maintain a salary and benefits, but it could potentially amount to a 25% cut in pay. It could be used as a tool for staff reduction. He is concerned that this procedure could become policy without any input from classified staff.

Another issue of concern is possible re-implementing the policy on internal recruitment. Prior to 1992, the university could recruit internally and close a position to outside recruitment. This would afford in house people the opportunity for advancement. This policy was dropped in 1992 because it was said that positions are funded by state dollars, thus any position that the state has should be open to everyone.

The Search Committee for Senior Vice-President and Provost has asked for questions to asks the candidates. Questions should be forwarded to Lorrie Martinson LMART @ VTVM1 by October 28. They would like to start face-to-face interviews in November.

Senator Shannon was recently approached and asked why wage people who have been working on campus for a long period of time and have already proven their ability have to take a typing test when applying for salary position. Most of the time, they don't use a typewriter, they use a computer. State policy requires that when applying for a clerical-type position a typing test must be taken.

Senator Rasnick announced results of the election as follows. Brenda Neidigh will serve on the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Approved 11/17/94