

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Staff Senate

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 1994
Room 102, Phase II, Vet Medicine

Senators present: Sheila Blankenship, Janet Bryant, Judy Davis, Betsy Davis-Jones, Marge Dellers, Patrick Donohoe, Patty Hall, Mary Holliman, Delbert Jones, Julia King, Valerie Myers, Brenda Neidigh, Donna Norman, Mary Pennington, Rocky Price, Vivian Rich, Widget Shannon, Chuck Shorter, Tony Sutphin, Virginia Viers, Sarah Wheeler, Deb Williams, Debbie Wilson.

Alternates and guests present: Lorrie Sumpter for Brenda Husser, Netta Eisler for Richard Lovegrove, Sheri Settle for Bhaba Misra, Wanda Garrison for Peggy Rasnick, Matt Martelli.

Call to order

Secretary Myers called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. In the absence of a constitutionally declared presiding officer/chair, Secretary Myers requested a nomination for someone to preside over the meeting. Senator Hall was nominated and agreed to chair the meeting.

Announcements

President Sasser was not present because he was attending the final meeting of the Provost Search Committee.

Ann Spencer was scheduled to speak at the meeting but will not attend, as she has no new information to report on Executive Order 38. Information concerning the buyout offer will be coming out in approximately one week. She thinks that when the layoff policy is rewritten, seniority will be taken into account.

President Sasser requests that all people who serve on committees, councils, and commissions please submit a two sentence report on the meetings they attend to secretary Myers. Senate can only function on the information that it receives. Secretary Myers will send the reports out with the monthly agenda and minutes.

President Sasser attended the Commission on Classified Staff Affairs meeting. They reviewed the Smoking Policy, which has been submitted to President Torgersen and Mr. Ridenour for review. The commission also looked at the academic year appointments, decentralization update, hiring freeze, and classified staff teaching academic courses.

The Employee Benefits Committee met, with Doug Martin as a guest speaker. They discussed benefits available to faculty and classified staff.

Faculty Senate met and discussed how the senate could become more

involved in governance. They expressed the same problems as staff senate, such as the membership not reporting back to the senate. Their main concerns were the issue of tenure, how the public is perceiving them, and how they could positively influence the public opinion.

The Senate thanked Deb Williams and her committee for the excellent job they did on the Ad Hoc Committee for Government Task Force Reform. Senator Hall announced that there is a list of state legislators and their addresses available for your information or for contacting them concerning the Blue Ribbon Strike Force.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 1994, meeting were approved with no corrections.

Senate Committee Reports

Communications - no report

Elections and Nominations - no report

Policies and Issues - met December 8. Senator Donohoe reported on the Repetitive Motion Subcommittee. They are working on an educational program presented by CommonHealth. Senator Craven reported that the External Performance Evaluation Management Study Committee had met and discussed what procedures should be used to obtain information on management procedures relative to remuneration and evaluation. They have been discussing this with Dennis Eavey, who recommended that large industries be included in the information gathering. When all the information is gathered, the committee will draft a letter to be sent to human resource directors.

They also had an extensive discussion of the Provost search, Blue Ribbon Strike Force recommendations, and Executive Order #38. There is elevated stress concerning job security, additional burden to staff, and changes in benefits and conditions of employment.

Old Business - None

New Business

Senator Shannon is a VGEA member and brought a copy of the latest newsletter, which contains a list of all the General Assembly members and a sample letter concerning the incentive pay plan, universal leave, and the downsizing of state government. January 16 is lobby day and Senator Shannon would like to see some of the senators attend. It is an educational day and you get to meet the legislators. Secretary Myers will send a copy of the VGEA newsletter out to senators.

Senator Shannon expressed concern that it has been a year since the senate passed the revised smoking policy. It is not a new policy, it is a revised policy. She feels that something ought to have been done by now, that it should have been brought back before the

commission, and then on to University Council. Senator Dellers stated that it had been taken to Dr. Torgersen and Mr. Ridenour. They want to establish another task force to study the situation. There are many different ramifications than there were six years ago. The policy should involve all constituencies across the university. Senator Sutphin stated that several colleges have passed their own smoking policy.

With no further business, Senator Eisler moved for adjournment at 6:08 PM.