

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 1995
Room 102, Phase II, Vet Medicine

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Senators Present: Danny Belcher, Janet Bryant, Billie Cline, Marge Dellers, Patrick Donohoe, Wanda Grubb, Patti Hall, Mary Holliman, Kim Homer, Delbert Jones, Julia King, Richard Lovegrove, Bhaba Misra, Eileen Moccia, Valerie Myers, Fred Phillips, Peggy Rasnick, Vivian Rich, Wyatt Sasser, Widget Shannon, Virginia Viers, Deb Williams, Debbie Wilson.

Alternates and Guests: Bev Parkins for Joann Craven, Janet Wimmer for Judy Davis, Netta Eisler, Ted Lionhart

Guest Speaker: Kim Homer, Computing Center

The senate was led on what Homer called "A Quick Cruise on the Internet." She stated that all computers are tied together by some form of the Internet. She displayed examples on a large screen, rather than a computer monitor, for easy visibility by all in attendance. If you have a PC or Macintosh computer and a PID at home, then the Computing Center will provide the necessary software to hook you up to the Internet. Information and software are available through the gopher or by calling 231-help or on-line 4Help@vt.edu or 4Help@vtvml. She displayed examples of userids and stated that the letters at the end of the userid indicate the type of user. For example, in vt.edu, the "edu" represents an educational institution. Anyone receiving electronic mail with the same name or on that is similar to another name can create an alias name to avoid confusion. Contact the Computing Center or 4-Help for information.

If you send mail out to numerous people and do not want the entire list of names at the top of the mail, use the BCC (blind carbon copy command). This is available by clicking BCC when selecting the list.

Homer demonstrated several home pages. Anyone with a PID can apply to create a home page. Senator Misra then demonstrated the Staff Senate home page that he is creating. It contains information about Staff Senate news, bylaws, minutes, and staff association news. To access the Staff Senate home page enter <http://www.vt.edu:10021/vetmed/brm/staff/senate.html>. It is anticipated that Spectrum will be available on-line.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 16, 1995, meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

Committee Reports

Communications - no report

Elections and Nominations - trying to determine what positions need to be filled on Committees and Commissions, as well as Staff Senate Executive Committee. More information will be available later.

Policies and Issues - Report available

McComas Leadership - No report

Ad Hoc Committee - No report

Strategic Budget and Planning will meet on April 21. There is a shortfall of \$12.2 million. Dr. Torgersen will notify the university what decisions are made to address the shortfall.

Faculty Affairs - The policy on RIF is strictly for faculty. Tenure process gives them five years. President Torgersen wants to get this down to three years. The commission wrote this into the policy and took the finished product to Faculty Senate. Senators were upset and did not understand why the change was made. The way it has been left is to do nothing else with it. It does not affect or apply to classified people.

Public Service and Extension - There are concerns that councils and commissions are being bypassed in the policy-making process.

Workforce Transition Act - Netta Eisler interviewed Ann Spencer about the WTA. They are hoping they won't have to force people to take these. People will be hired in the future knowing that the position is being filled under this act. Spectrum will publish any information available.

Old Business

Staff Appreciation day - Thursday, May 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. President Torgersen is asking for the support of deans, directors and department heads. He is funding this out of his budget. Senator Shannon expressed concern that employees should not use this time to leave campus. If you do not attend the festivities, you should return to your office. The rescue squad will be on call. The dance area will be more in front of the viewing stand. The meal will start at 11.

Senator McConnell sent a note that she cannot be involved with Senate Committees, etc. President Sasser appointed himself to fill the remainder of McConnell's term on University Council.

President Sasser stated that he attended the recent meeting with Dr. Torgersen, which was originally just for faculty. Of interest to us - furloughs would have to be universitywide; layoffs are not being planned but it could be up to individual units to police themselves.

New Business

There was discussion of upcoming association elections and senate elections. Senator Rasnick distributed a list of empty slots to be filled. She requested that we take these back to departments or units and recruit volunteers and notify her as quickly as possible. Must also have a biography on each nominee. E-mail is rasnick@vt.edu. Bios should be sent to her by E-mail at rasnick@vt.edu or Senator Phillips at FEP@vt.edu. President Sasser extended a plea for senators or alternates to please attend the next meeting on May 18. We need to conduct elections, and cannot do so without a quorum.

Other

Senator Misra stated that when Senators receive information, etc. of concern to classified staff, we should forward it on to association representatives and make sure they pass it on to constituents.

With no quorum, no official business could be conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.