

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY  
STAFF SENATE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 18, 1996  
Room 102, Phase II, Vet Medicine

Senators Present: Spencer Allen, Billie Cline, Betsy Davis-Jones, Marge Dellers, Matt Gart, Patti Hall, Cindy Harrison, Tom Hergert, Delbert Jones, Dee Lee, Richard Lovegrove, Eileen Moccia, Valerie Myers, Mary Pennington, Bill Ranck, Wyatt Sasser, Widget Shannon, Chuck Shorter, Virginia Viers, and Jon Wooge.

Alternates: Sheri Settle for Bhaba Misra, Vivian Rich, Kelly Ross, Netta Smith for Spectrum.

No quorum being present, minutes of November meeting were deferred to February meeting.

Announcements: Senator Sasser asked the membership to let Senator Hall know of any changes in their associations' senators or alternates. These changes can be sent to Senator Hall at hallpb@vt.edu. Sasser announced that he has asked Minnis Ridenour to be a guest speaker at a future meeting to discuss the 1996-97 budget and the University budget process. Peggy Meszaros will also be invited to a future meeting.

Sasser asked the membership if they had any concerns with approving the minutes electronically. Senator Lovegrove expressed that a number of other committees and commissions approve their minutes electronically and those minutes are not brought up at the meeting at all. He said that if you had a problem with the minutes, the member would e-mail their changes to the secretary and the changes would be made. For those who didn't respond, it was assumed that they had no changes and approved the minutes as written. Senator Ranck expressed some concern over "policy" issues being voted on electronically but that he had no problems with the minutes being approved. It was decided that the minutes would be approved electronically provided there was not a quorum at the next scheduled meeting.

Standing Committee reports:

Communications Committee - No report due to weather.

Elections and Nominations Committee - No report due to weather.

McComas Leadership Committee - Sasser reported that one of the co-chairs of this committee has resigned.

Policies and Issues Committee - Senator Dellers reported that the committee met and discussed employee morale & other "rumors" that were going about the University.

Council, Commission, Committee Reports:

Commission on Classified Staff Affairs: Senator Myers reported that a resolution was passed expressing their concern over the College of Education decision. This resolution will be passed along to the Faculty & Staff Senates and the University Council. She reported that another

document was drafted and will be sent to David Conn, and carbon copies to Dr. Torgersen and Faculty & Staff Senates concerning the wording of the University Plan draft. The Commission believes that "references to the staff, in the rare instances where they occur, tend to be vague at best, and place the staff in a subordinate position to the administration and to the faculty, rather than in a position of full partnership as called for in the system of shared governance."

Sasser encouraged senate members to review the draft of the University Plan. A copy of this plan is on the gopher system and has been sent out in newspaper form to members of the University. He reminded the members of the University Plan meeting which is to take place on Friday, January 19 at 8:00 in 30 Pamplin Hall. He encouraged all classified staff to attend this meeting. He also encouraged those members who could not attend the meeting to write to David Conn giving him their input concerning the University Plan. There was much discussion concerning the wording of the University Plan.

Senator Hergert asked the senate for comments on the Faculty Senate's proposed changes concerning the possibility of a different make-up of the Faculty Senate. There was much discussion concerning these possible changes and how it relates to the classified staff members. Sasser commented that he had spoken with Tom Sherman, President of Faculty Senate, and asked him to be a guest speaker at a future Staff Senate meeting. Sherman has agreed and will be present at a future meeting. Sasser commented that this would be a good time to ask Sherman about these proposed changes. Sasser announced that the Executive Boards of the Faculty and Staff Senates would meet together on January 29 to develop unity with the senates and look at common points of interest.

Transportation and Parking Committee: Senator Shannon reported that they had met. Items that had been discussed were the parking hours in front of the University Bookstore and parking and transportation budget (revenue and expenses). Shannon reported that Spring Road would definitely be closed beginning the end of February or the beginning of March for construction of the soccer and track complex.

Senator Hergert asked for an update on the electronic responses to the Senate's proposed resolution concerning the College of Education. Senator Hall responded by saying she wasn't sure what the exact tally was from those who had responded but that there appeared to be more "yeas" than "nays." Hergert reported that the committee met and worked out three possible alternates. Those alternates were then discussed with the faculty in both the College of Education and Human Resources. He also reported that Dr. Torgersen was meeting with superintendents of schools in Roanoke to give them information about possible agreements between the College of Education and Human Resources. The two possibilities were a "full" merger with the College of Human Resources or to become a school of education within the College of Human Resources or the College of Arts & Sciences. He reported that he thought the "full" merger option was the one that would be followed.

Senator Dellers reported that she and Fred Phillips are working on a date for those who had said they would volunteer in the senate office to attend a brief training session. She will let those individuals know when it has been set. She also reported that an extra key for the office is kept by Lou Ann Phipps in Ann Spencer's office.

Sasser reported on the proposed bonus check. He reported that he had spoken with H.B. Whitt who indicated that it wasn't really a bonus check but because the proposal would shift the pay dates back a week, anyone leaving state service would get the pay two weeks after they left service. Sasser read a memo which stated, "At the present time we are paid on the first day of the month for work through the 31st of the previous month. If someone takes leave on the 28th and 29th of the month and doesn't have sufficient leave balances, we overpay them and have to recover the money. This is just one example of payroll errors that occurs because we don't have "lag" time built into the schedule to allow us to make changes before the checks are printed. Most businesses pay their employees one week after they earn the pay. The state (and Tech) would like to go to a delayed schedule and the proposal by the state would allow that by adding the "bonus" in December 1996." There was much discussion concerning the proposal.

Senator Hall reported that she had spoken with Representative Shuler concerning the proposed bonus check. She will pass all comments sent to her along to Representative Shuler. Those comments would not be reflective of the Staff Senate's opinion but of individual's opinions. Hall will put a disclaimer on the comments before sending them to Shuler.

Senator Dellers reported that she is again serving on the Advisory Committee on Higher Education. She will be receiving information concerning proposed legislation. She will be responding to Representative Shuler concerning comments about the proposed bonus check.

There being no further information, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patti Hall  
Staff Senate Secretary