

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 1996
Room 102, Phase II, Vet Medicine

Senators Present: Spencer Allen, Joyce Bohr, Billie Cline, JoAnn Craven, Phoebe Crofts, Judy Davis, Marge Dellers, Debra Duncan, Wanda Grubb, Patti Hall, Delbert Jones, Julia King, Adelene Kirby, Dee Lee, Joyce Longrie, Richard Lovegrove, Eileen Moccia, Valerie Myers, Mary Pennington, Ben Poe, Bill Ranck, Widget Shannon, Chuck Shorter, Virginia Viers, and John Wooge.

Alternates and Guests Present: Janet Wimmer for Sandy Graham, Deb Williams for Cindy Harrison, Netta Smith for Tom Hergert and Spectrum, John R. for Bhaba Misra.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33p.m. by Vice President Myers. She introduced the guest speakers who were Zack Adams, Bernadette Mondy, Doug Smiley, and Deborah Young from Environmental Health & Safety Services. Deborah Young talked about her area, occupational health and the areas she serves. She explained the different programs which includes the programs of Medical Surveillance, Bloodborne Pathogens, Tuberculosis, Drug and Alcohol Recordkeeping, Hazard Monitoring, Hearing conservation, Respiratory Protection, Infectious Waste Disposal and First Aid and CPR Training. The next person to speak was Zack Adams. He gave a brief overview of his area, occupational safety programs, which includes Asbestos Operations and Maintenance, Lead Hazard Compliance, Confined Space Entry Program, Indoor Air Quality, Contractor Safety, Electrical Safety Program, Lockout-Tagout Program, Employee Safety, and Trenching, Shoring. Doug Smiley gave an overview of his area, Radiation Safety Program. This program includes Radioactive Material Safety, Radioactive licensing, and X-Ray Equipment. Bernadette Mondy then gave a brief overview of her section, Lab Safety. The Lab Safety Program includes lab inspections, fume hood safety, a chemical tracking pilot program, hazardous waste disposal, and research and farm inspection. There was a brief question and answer session following the presentation.

Senator Myers thanked the Health and Safety team for coming to the senate meeting and for informing the group of the updates that has taken place in the past several years.

The November 16, 1996 minutes were approved with corrections which were previously sent via computer to Secretary Hall.

Senator Myers explained that because of a lack of quorum at both the December and January meetings, the minutes were not official minutes but reports of what went on at those meetings. She asked that any corrections to those reports be sent to Secretary Hall.

Standing Committee Reports:

Communications Committee - no report

Elections and Nominations Committee - Senator Judy Davis reported that the Elections and Nominations Committee met on February 6 and is getting ready to present a slate for officers at the March Senate meeting.

McComas Leadership Committee - Senator Joyce Longrie reported that the committee is moving forward on the seminar. She reported that Dr. Torgersen would not be able to attend the seminar but Dr. Meszaros has agreed to give the welcoming address in his absence.

Policies and Issues Committee: Senator Marge Dellers reported that they are meeting the next week.

Senator Myers then asked for University Council, commissions, or committee reports.

Commission on Classified Staff Affairs - Senator Dellers reported that the commission met on February 14. She reported that there was a discussion on the University closing inclement weather policy, particularly the emergency/essential personnel issue. Dellers reported that Ann Spencer will be heading a task force that will include employees affected and supervisors in the discussion of this policy. This is a state policy but does not seem to be universally enforced. Dellers reported that Ann Spencer's group is still working on decentralization but have not accomplished much due to the weather. Dellers reported that Dean Worner, College of Education, spoke at the commission meeting and reported that the College of Education and the College of Human Resources are working as two separate colleges for the 1996-97 academic year. He reported that the "dean search" for the College of Human Resources will have a committee comprising of faculty members from both colleges. He reported that they are working to make the change work.

Commission on Public Service and Extension - Alternate Deb Williams reported that this committee's excellence awards committee has met and made a selection for the award. She reported that there were no classified staff members nominated for this award.

Transportation and Parking Committee - Senator Widget Shannon reported that the committee has approved free parking for those individuals who have 30 years or more of service to the University which will be effective for the 1996-97 year. She also reported that Spring Road will be closed starting on March 10.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies - Senator Wanda Grubb reported that the commission has been working for over a year on an minimum eligibility QCA for students to remain at the University. The current policy states that after the freshman year, a student must have a 1.5 overall QCA; a 1.75 overall QCA by the end of their sophomore year and a 2.0 overall QCA by the end of their junior and senior years. The new policy states that a student must maintain an overall QCA of 2.0 all through their college career. The new policy will be in effect the 1997 academic year.

Old Business

Senator Davis reported that the Elections and Nominations Committee is working on putting together a slate for the 1996-97 senate officers and vacancies on the commissions, committees, and/or University Council. She reported that the Elections and Nominations committee will be going to their database and will be contacting those individuals who have expressed interest in serving in one of the vacancies. Davis asked each member to help her identify those individuals who may be interested in serving as a

senate officer. She reported that at the next Staff Senate meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor with voting at the April senate meeting. Davis reminded the senators that she needed a biographical sketch from those individuals who will be placing their names on the election ballot. She also reminded each member that their associations should be holding their elections for next year's senators, alternates, and association officers. Davis asked each member to check with their association president to make sure they are working on the elections.

Senator Myers reported that a committee is being put together to work on Staff Appreciation Day, and she asked for two senators to volunteer to serve on this committee. Those who volunteered were Widget Shannon and Bill Ranck.

Under other business, Senator Myers reported that the Faculty and Staff Senate officers are meeting to discuss issues that affect both senates. The senates are working together to improve communications between both faculty and staff. She reported that the next meeting will be on February 29 from 12:30-2:00pm and encouraged those who have comments, ideas or concerns to let one of the staff senate officers know and they will take it to the meeting. Alternate Deb Williams asked if any discussion had taken place concerning the proposed governance changes. Senator Myers commented that the issue had been discussed briefly and that both senates were going to look at the present governance structure. Myers also stated that by both senates working together, Staff Senate would be more informed about where faculty senate is heading concerning governance changes.

As a member of VGEA, Senator Shannon encouraged each member of the Senate to join this association. She reported that there are several bills in the legislative system which would affect classified staff and that VGEA lobbies for changes that will help classified staff.

Senator Allen asked the membership to check with their staff associations to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring with the College of Arts and Sciences Staff Association a professional speaker to do a workshop/seminar on stress management. He stated that the expenses would be too high for their staff association to do but would like for other staff associations to co-sponsor this endeavor with them. If a staff association is interested they should contact Brenda Husser at 231-6878 or her e-mail address is bhusser@vt.edu. Senator Myers commented that the University has a number of very good speakers who might be willing to do a seminar on stress management or motivation which might cost less than having someone from off campus come.

There being no further business, Staff Senate was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patti Hall
Staff Senate Secretary