

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE
1810 Litton Reaves
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 1998

Senators Present: Spencer Allen, Sherry Burlingame, Reba Crawford, Jack Davis, Barbara Day, Judy Fielder, Janet Francis, Cindy Harrison, Tom Hergert, Delbert Jones, Terry Lawrence, Joyce Longrie, Milko Maykowskyj, Ben Poe, Tina Shanklin, Jennifer Simba, Joy Thorn, Janet Town, Virginia Viers

Alternates: Rebecca Barlow voting for Nancy Phillips, Jill Elswick voting for Mary Conrad, Billie Cline voting for Jon Wooge, Patrick Donohoe voting for Matt Gart, Beverly Parkins voting for Mary Pennington, Pam Raines voting for Charles Rose

Excused: Mary Conrad, Matt Gart, Mary Pennington, Nancy Phillips, Peggy Rasnick, Charles Rose, Jon Wooge

Faculty Representative: Dr. Kamal Rojiani

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Minutes of the February 19, 1998 were approved. Note: One change was made after the minutes were sent out to the Associations. Under Announcements, the abbreviation for the College of Arts and Science Staff Association was erroneously typed CASAA and has now been corrected to be CASSA.

Guest Speaker – President Paul Torgersen

He reported to Staff Senate that the SACS accreditation visit was successful. At the same time the NCAA was doing an accreditation of athletics. It was also successful.

He gave a short report on the General Assembly Legislative Session that was just completed and what had been approved for Va. Tech. The proposed car tax cut will drain the higher education budget. There was twenty-three million dollars allotted for a new Chemistry-Physics building. There is planning money for two new buildings for Agriculture and renovation of the Dairy complex. Salary increase money for next year is at the rate of 5.8% for faculty, 3.6% for classified staff and 3.1% for professional and administrative staff pending approval by the Governor. There is already a move in Richmond to change the figures for faculty.

President Torgersen expressed the University's support of participation of classified staff members in shared governance, and will write a letter to the University community encouraging support and participation.

He was asked about tuition incentives for staff dependents, and he reported that there is no money at this time to support this.

He apologized for not being able to attend Staff Appreciation Day activities. He has a commitment in Richmond and therefore will be unable to attend.

President Torgersen was asked about his role in governance at Va. Tech. His response was that while he doesn't work closely with governance, his executive assistant is assigned to that responsibility and keeps him closely informed. The provost and executive vice-president shares this role with him. He does preside at University Council when he is on campus.

The President was asked how he felt about "distance learning". He said that he did not want to see that substituted for the "VT experience".

He was asked about the rumor that the Dairy complex on Southgate Drive was going to be moved. He responded that it would be left on campus, but there will be some "cosmetic" changes because it is located at the official campus entrance and should look better.

Cindy Harrison congratulated the president on the excellent preparation for the Self-Study. Spencer Allen thanked the President for addressing Staff Senate.

Announcements –

The VGEA forum will be held at Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center on Monday, March 23, 1998 at 5:00 PM. Executive Director Joan Dent will be the guest speaker along with Mary Kornwolf, Program Director. Linda Woodard, Personnel Director, will also be there to answer questions.

Committee Reports –

Communications – Milko Maykowskyj reported the web page requires a lot of participation to stay current. He asked for participation from the Staff Senate.

McComas Committee - McComas Leadership Seminar is set for April 16, 1998, 8:00 –12:00, at Hillcrest Dining Hall. Invited are Staff Senators, Alternates, Staff Association Officers and Staff Representatives to University Council, Commissions and Committees. Speakers will include: Larry Moore, Linda Woodard, Peggy Meszaros, and Wayne Worner will serve as Moderator. Workshop visitors from Radford University, UVA and VCU have committed to attend. The working title is "Roots to the Future: Staff Senate and Shared Governance, 1988< 1998<2008".

Policies and Issues – The Policies and Issues Committee is still working on getting staff associations active and re-energizing the active ones.

Council, Committees, Commissions Reports –

University Council – Terry Lawrence reported there was the issue of upgrading classified staff salaries. The discussion was that the current twenty steps system for classified staff is not working.

Commission on Administrative and Profession Faculty – Janet Town reported that the rate of increase for the A.P. faculty was discussed.

Commission on Faculty Affairs – Tom Hergert reported the discussion was on compensation for overload teaching assignments for faculty.

Commission on Student Affairs – Judy Fielder reported the Student Life Code of Conduct is being revised mostly due to the recent increase in abusive E-mails, public nudity and other inappropriate behavior.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Barbara Day reported the discussion was on the resolution concerning expansion of admission of students from non-accredited schools and how to verify curriculum and texts used.

Intellectual Properties Committee – Tom Hergert reported there is a new policy purported to help staff when they intellectually contribute to projects. Currently there is not much support for this.

Library Committee – Milko Maykowskyj reported the request by faculty and graduate students to be allowed to hold books longer was not well received.

New Business –

Nominations and Elections – Virginia Viers, Chairman took nominations from the floor for Senate Officers and Council, Commission and Committee seats. The nominees are asked to provide a bio and to attend the April meeting to be introduced to the Senate. The elections will take place in the May meeting.

Charitable Campaign – the private money campaign is underway. Everyone is encouraged to participate even if your contribution is small.

Approval of Minutes by E-mail – Discussion was on approving the Senate minutes by e-mail in order to be able to send them to the University community without a month delay.

Campus Mail Delivery to CRC – Cindy Harrison brought up the change that campus mail would no longer be delivered to CRC. It was stated that there is an alphabetical index of people and their addresses available at www.vt.crc.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Thorn, Secretary
Krissie Thrasher, Recorder