

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE
1810 Litton Reaves
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 1998

Senators Present: Spencer Allen, Reba Crawford, Judy Fielder, Janet Francis, Cindy Harrison, Delbert Jones, Terry Lawrence, Mary Pennington, Nancy Phillips, Ben Poe, Peggy Rasnick, Charles Rose, Tina Shanklin, Joy Thorn, Janet Town, Virginia Viers, Jon Wooge, Kathryn Young.

Alternates: Rebecca Barlow voting for Jack Davis, Jessie Eaves voting for Debbie Wilson, Mary Whitlock.

Excused: Jack Davis, Bruce Lytton, Debbie Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Minutes of the September 17, 1998 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

Kathryn Young volunteered to be the Staff Senate Representative to Faculty Senate.

Five staff volunteered to serve on the President's Award for Excellence Committee. Those five names will be forwarded to the Committee for the selection of one.

Minnis Ridenour, Executive Vice President, will be the guest speaker at the 11/19/98 meeting. Ben asked for any questions for Mr. Ridenour to be sent to him in advance at "bpoe@vt.edu". This will allow Mr. Ridenour a chance to prepare for the meeting.

Staff Senate Standing Committee Reports –

Elections and Nominations - Jon Wooge reported the Elections and Nominations Committee has met. The Committee is working on the fall mailing to all classified staff to gather names to be entered into a data base of those interested in participating in shared governance. This mailing should be sent to all classified staff the middle of November.

University Committee/Commission Reports –

Benefits Committee – Spencer Allen informed Senate that packets about the new sick leave plan would be sent out from Personnel in November or early December. He was also asked how to find information on Workers' Compensation. He said that information is available from Personnel. He encouraged every staff member to become more familiar with all of the Workers' Compensation forms. In completing these forms, all details must be very specific to job related accidents.

Commission on Classified Affairs – Cindy Harrison submitted a written report on the Commission on Classified Affairs. The monthly meeting was held on 10-14-98. The guest speaker was Dr. Benjamin Dixon, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs. Michele Holmes gave the EEO Committee Report. Future topics of discussion are the new sick leave/disability plan, the Governor's Survey and Town Meetings, Benefits Fair Review, and the Pay Plan Reform. Cindy suggested that Dr. Dixon be invited to speak to the Senate.

Commission on Student Affairs – Judy Fielder reported that Scott Hurst, University Architect, spoke about the master plan for the University. She suggested that he be invited to speak to the Senate.

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Janet Francis submitted a written report on the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies. The three items on the agenda for this Commission for 1998-99 will be to 1) Review Freshman Rule, 2) Review Transfer Policy, and 3) Review Academic Eligibility Policy. You can find more information about this Commission on the web under University governance.

University Computing and Communications Resources Committee - Carolyn Furrow submitted a written report on the September 16, 1998 meeting. Dianna Benton discussed the computer requirement for students this fall. She reported that Macintosh machines are late on delivery, a large number of monitors

from the Engineering purchase were defective and are being swapped out, and a large number of computers are still at the bookstore awaiting students to pick them up. They are already paid for. It is not known whether the student owners of these machines are on campus. The University provided students with computer consultant's assistance by installing network software and ensuring proper function and operation. The Provost's Office has received some thank you letters from parents for the assistance their student received from the consulting team. You can find more information about this Committee on the web under University governance.

New Business:

The Staff Senate Meeting in December will be another reunion meeting. It will be held December 3, 1998. It will take the place of the regular meeting 12/17/98. A list of volunteers to assist in the planning was obtained.

Old Business:

Cindy Harrison reported that she has made a contact about having "Partner In Shared Governance" trade marked for Staff Senate's use. She'll let us know how it is going.

Ben opened the floor to Staff Senate about changing the time for Staff Senate meetings. A discussion was held to have the January meeting at lunch on a trial basis. By a show of hands, the Senators approved holding the January meeting at lunch. Ben said he would notify all staff of this change. Cindy asked that all Senators and Alternates inform their associations that meetings are open. We hope this will encourage participation in Staff Senate.

Guest Speaker –

Mr. William "Bill" Campion, Director of Recreational Sports, was the guest speaker at this meeting. His presentation was on the new McComas Student Health and Fitness Center and the use of the War Memorial Hall. He stated that the new McComas Student Health and Fitness Center is for student use only. War Memorial Hall is still being used for classes, office space, and faculty, staff and student use. A study will be conducted of the student use of McComas Hall, and a decision will be made in May to see if it can be expanded to faculty and staff. The students are very satisfied with the new building. There are 1400 – 2000 students a day using the facility, and more are expected when the weather turns cold. There is a scanner system in the new building to monitor students using the building. In War Memorial there are now alarms on the doors. Recreational Sports Department is trying to monitor the use of this building. Mr. Campion is very interested in receiving questions/comments/ideas concerning either of these facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M. At that time Mr. Campion took those interested on a tour of the new McComas Student Health and Fitness Center.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joy Thorn, Secretary