

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE
1810 Litton Reaves
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 1999

Senators Present: Spencer Allen, Jack Davis, Judy Fielder, Janet Francis, Cindy Harrison, Delbert Jones, Terry Lawrence, Bruce Lytton, Milko Maykowskyj, Mary Pennington, Ben Poe, Charles Rose, Joy Thorn, Jon Wooge.

Alternates: Rebecca Barlow voting for Tina Shanklin, Billie Cline voting for Nancy Phillips, Linda Correll voting for Virginia Viers, Jessie Eaves voting for Deb Wilson, Linda Haney voting for Peggy Rasnick, Butch Hilton, Mary Whitlock.

Excused: Nancy Phillips, Peggy Rasnick, Tina Shanklin, Janet Town, Virginia Viers, Debbie Wilson, Kathryn Young.

Visitors: Cathy Hansen, Aaron Hill, Susan Piovano, Adelene Kirby, Carolyn Furrow, and Karen Frazier.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon

Minutes of the January 21, 1999 meeting were approved. Note: After approving Virginia Viers wanted to clarify a statement made in the Employee Benefits Committee report. I wrote in the report - "Chairman Virginia Viers reported there is a 15 state alliance program in which the state of Virginia employees or dependents that cannot get a program of study offered in the state of Virginia may go to one of these 15 states that should offer it and pay "in-state tuition". She wanted to clarify and identify this as the Academic Common Market provision, which is open to all residents of the state of Virginia. The Academic Common Market provision is a cooperative tuition reduction agreement among 15 Southern Regional Education Board States. If no public institution in your state offers a degree program in your chosen field of study, you may be able to arrange a waiver of out-of-state tuition by attending a cooperating public college of university in another participating state through the program. The State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) handles coordination for Virginia students. The most up to date information on the Academic Common Market provision is available on 1. SREB's web site at: <http://www.sreb.org/programs/rse/regional.htm1> or 2. SCHEV's web site: <http://www.schev.edu/wuacadpg/acmsreb.htm1>. You may call the administrator for Virginia programs, Aris Bearse at 804-225-3189 or bearse@schev.edu. It is also noted that programs can change at anytime. Also, participating colleges and universities may drop out at anytime. If anyone is interested in this benefit, they should contact one of the above to get the latest information.

Announcements

Dianne Ballard made an announcement of the upcoming seminar, "Improving the Status of Women and Minorities at Virginia Tech: An Interactive Seminar". The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of the Provost are sponsoring this seminar. It will be held Monday, March 19, 1999, 3:30 5:00 PM in Owens Banquet Hall (South side). The topics for discussion include reporting on Current Status, Sharing Effective Strategies, and Proposing New Strategies. You may RSVP to the OMA office at 231-1820 or via e-mail at atkinsrw@vt.edu.

Guest Speaker Doug Jones Personnel Services

Doug made a presentation to Staff Senate on an idea he had that he wanted Staff Senate to consider under taking. He felt that staff played a very important role in the operation of the University and that staff was not always recognized. He stated that staff needed to invest in themselves. There are many ways to do this. A few examples are shirts, bumper stickers, and/or large pins. His idea is for staff to design a shirt, bumper sticker or pin that could say on one side "I am a part of Virginia Tech" and on the other side "and it is a part of me." This is a way for staff to state that we are a part of the University and feel that it is important. If each staff would purchase a shirt at cost plus \$1.00, then the profit could be invested and used to purchase a shirt for new employees to be given in their orientation meeting. He has checked with Licensure, and we can use the VT logo. He is meeting with Eleven West to see what the price of the shirt would be. The shirt would be a statement that we are proud to be an employee of Virginia Tech and also used as a welcome to the new employees. It is hoped something could be set up so that staff would wear the shirts on the first day of the month or if worn they could make a statement at Staff Appreciation Day. He left four points for Staff Senate to consider and provide feedback:

- Thoughts and feasibility of this idea.
- Input on design, nickname and logo.
- Thoughts on marketing.
- Other thoughts.

There were discussions on the presentation. The majority of the Senators were in favor of the idea. Terry Lawrence and Milko Maykowskyj volunteered to work with Doug on this idea.

Staff Senate Standing Committee Reports:

Communications Committee

Milko Maykowskyj reported that the Staff Senate web site has been up-dated He announced that President Torgersen's letter of support to participate in Staff Senate activities is on the web site. The web site address for Staff Senate is <http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu>.

Terry Lawrence is trying to get a newsletter for staff implemented. Please send any information about associations to Janet Town (0113).

Cindy Harrison talked about the Staff Senate letter that new staff members will receive in their orientation packet. This letter will tell them about Staff Senate and shared governance.

Terry Lawrence is working on a Staff Senate brochure. Jon Wooge made a motion to accept the brochure and to have it printed. It was seconded and passed by the group.

Elections and Nominations -

Chairman Jon Wooge reported that the mailing asking for names to fill vacancies has been sent to staff. We still need more names. The committee will start looking at vacancies in early March. He wanted the Senators to remind their associations that elections need to be completed by the end of March and forward names to Jon. The committee will meet on March 8 at 12 noon in the Heritage Room in Vet Med. Ben announced that he would not be able to serve another term as President due to job responsibilities and health problems. Joy Thorn announced that the

Secretary/Treasurer's position would be vacant, as this is her 2nd year in the position. Spencer Allen stated that serving in this capacity was a good way for staff to learn about Va. Tech and shared governance.

McComas Committee

Judy Fielder reported the committee would meet on Monday to elect a chairperson and plan the seminar to take place May 5.

Councils, Committees, Commission Reports -

Commission on Classified Staff Affairs - Chairman Cindy Harrison and Terry Lawrence reported on the proposal for Scholarships for Spouses and Dependents of faculty and staff. This proposal has received the approval of the President and University Development. The scholarship will be for children and spouses of VT employees. The official name will be "Virginia Tech Staff and Faculty Dependent and Spouses Scholarship Program." More information will be available later. Scholarships are to be based on need and merit. Cindy asked that everyone take this information to his/her departments and associations. It will be started in the fall of 2000. University Development will be responsible for the marketing of this program.

Benefits Committee - Spencer Allen reminded everyone they must respond either yes or no to the new sick leave policy. The form must be returned even if you are not changing your sick leave option. He reported that at the present the majority of forms returned were keeping the present system.

Announcements:

Ben asked about the Student Affairs Association. Aaron Hill reported they are having a reorganization meeting of this group on March 4th at 11:30. They would like representation from Staff Senate to attend this meeting if possible. They have an interim committee that will set up an election.

Ben announced the upcoming Staff Senate breakfast for March 12. The purpose is to build up staff associations by sharing what others are doing that works. More information will be sent out concerning this affair.

Ben asked for a volunteer to serve on Multi-Cultural Committee on Diversity. Milko Maykowskyj volunteered.

Senate meetings will return to the 5:30 PM schedule next month. Discussions will be held later as to the time for Senate to meet next year.

Adelene Kirby, College of Arts & Sciences announced that five classified staff members have been chosen for the presidential "Excellence" awards. She served on the nominations committee and was concerned that the nominations committee did not receive very many nominations. She also stated that not many nominations were received for the lower levels staff positions. She did state that all five nominees that were selected were very worthy. Winners are being notified.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joy Thorn, Secretary
Mary Whitlock, Stenographer

