

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

Senators Present: Spencer Allen, Reba Crawford, Jack Davis, Judy Fielder, Cathy Hansen, Cindy Harrison, Aaron Hill, Delbert Jones, Terry Lawrence, Milko Maykowskyj, Nancy Philips, Ben Poe, Christine Porterfield, Peggy Rasnick, Tina Shanklin, Joy Thorn, Jon Wooge, Kathryn Young.

Alternates: Rebecca Barlow, Jessie Eaves voting for Janet Francis, Mary Whitlock voting for Mary Pennington.

Excused: Janet Francis, Janet Town, Virginia Viers

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Minutes from the 2/18/99 meeting were approved.

Announcements – Ben Poe stated that the Staff Senate breakfast held March 12, 1999 at the CEC went very well. A suggestion for another session was to invite the Deans to come and share in a dialogue. This hopefully would help the deans that do not support Staff Senate to better understand our position in shared governance.

Staff Senate Standing Committee Reports:

Elections and Nominations - Jon Wooge, Chair reported there are still a number of Council, Commissions and Committee seats that still need nominees. A list of the C/C/C vacancies was distributed to the Senators. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The Staff Senate executive office seats are also open. Spencer Allen asked if self-nominations would be accepted. The answer was "yes". Tina Shanklin asked if a three-year appointment to a C/C/C seat could be filled by a Senator who may only have two years left. The answer was "yes". At the end of the Senator's term, the Elections and Nominations Committee would have to fill the vacancy as a temporary, one-year appointment. The Elections and Nominations Committee would be sending out a letter in the next week to all nominees asking for a bio and inviting them to attend the April Staff Senate meeting in order for the Senators to put a face with the name on the ballot.

The issue of Staff Senate alternates holding C/C/C positions was discussed. In order for this to take place, the Staff Senate By-laws would have to be changed. Spencer Allen stated that the Staff Senate President could make this decision if there are not enough Senators to fill open positions. Presently the By-laws read University Council and Commissions vacancies must be filled with Senators. Some of the Committee vacancies are Senator positions and some are staff.

Ben Poe described the duties of the Staff Senate President. The president conducts all meetings. He chairs the Staff Senate Executive Committee meetings. He serves on the Personnel Strategic Advisory Committee. The President's Office shows the Staff Senate President as an official representative to University Council. The president of Staff Senate is one of the top 6 people on campus to be notified in case of an emergency.

Cindy Harrison talked about the duties of the Vice-President. The vice-president conducts meeting in the absence of the president, attends Staff Senate Executive Committee meetings. This person chairs the Classified Staff Affairs Commission.

Joy Thorn talked about the duties of the Secretary. This position keeps the roll and takes the minutes at all Staff Senate Meetings. She compiles email list of all Senators, Alternates, Alumni, Association

Officers, Staff Representatives to the C/C/C's and forwards all DDD's emails and Staff Senate agendas and minutes to this group.

Terry Lawrence talked about the duties of the Parliamentarian. This position serves on several committees and ensures that the constitution and by-laws are followed.

Christine Porterfield asked for definitions and duties of the C/C/C positions. Ben Poe explained each and Spencer Allen made a flow chart of the governance structure. A flow chart of this structure can be found on the web.

Jon Wooge encouraged those willing to serve to please contact him to get their name on the ballot.

McComas Committee - Delbert Jones reported the focus this year would be on staff development. It would deal with team building. Linda Woodard, Personnel Director, is working with this committee. The event will be held May 5, 1999 at Owens Dining Hall.

Communications Committee - Terry Lawrence reported the Staff Senate brochure is on hold. Carol Nickerson and Linda Woodard have both reviewed it. Carol passed it but Linda had some good suggestions. Terry will ask Charlie Rose, who is an English major, to take a look at it.

Councils, Committees, Commission Reports -

Commission on Classified Staff Affairs – Cindy Harrison reported on the special scholarship program for spouses and dependents. She wanted everyone to understand that the initial contribution must come from faculty and staff. If we do not make contribution, this scholarship program will not work. After it is proven that the interest is there, University Development will go after other donations.

Commission on Student Affairs – Judy Fielder reported that this commission is considering two resolutions. One deals with the "Code of Conduct Resolution". It deals with the connection of "Sweatshop Labor". This commission wants to know if Va. Tech. clothing items are being made in these sweatshops. This was the first reading by this Commission. The second reading will be held at the April Meeting.

The second resolution is "Resolution Against Extending Enforcement Hours for Parking Lots Designated Faculty/Staff". The Faculty Senate passed a motion on February 16, 1999 supporting enforcement hours for all or parts of lots designated F/S to 9:00 p.m. The SGA says it is unfair to the student population. The concern is safety for both. It was suggested that Steve Mouras, Director of Parking, address the Staff Senate to discuss the complete picture of parking on campus. Also it was suggested that one of the Staff Senate representatives to the Parking Committee be asked to come to a Staff Senate meeting to give a report about parking on campus.

New Business:

Jessie Eaves asked about the closing (or lack of) the University during inclement weather. Ben Poe offered to check on this. Christine Porterfield added that VDOT had problems cleaning the roads because of the Va. Tech. employees being on the road and in the ditches.

Announcements:

Staff Senate has a new phone number. It is 231-2585 and it is a phone mailbox.

Respectfully submitted:

Joy Thorn, Secretary
Mary Whitlock, Stenographer

