

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE
1810 Litton Reaves

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 1999

Senators present: Becky Barlow, Harry Biggs, Reba Crawford, Jackie Davis, Elva Douthat (new senator from CHRE), Jessie Eaves, Lynne Ellis, Judy Fielder, Cathy Hansen, Cindy Harrison, Aaron Hill, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Ben Poe, Christy Porterfield, Hilda Reynolds, Virginia Viers, Debbie Wilson, Kathryn Young

Excused: Stacie Cole, Janet Francis, Janet Town, Jon Wooge

Alternates present: Patrick Donohoe, Suzanne Piovano, Joy Thorn

The proposed agenda was approved. The minutes from August 19, 1999 were approved.

Announcements.

Joy Thorn distributed sign-up sheets for a **Cancer Walk**: The College of Human Resources and Education Staff Association is sponsoring a "Cancer Walk" to benefit the American Cancer Society for the Virginia Tech faculty, staff and their guest(s). All participants must be 18 years or older. It will be held Saturday, October 30, 1999, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Johnson Miller Complex (VA Tech track). We are inviting the University to come out and participate in this event. The objective is to aid in funding for cancer research and education. A flyer will be sent to each salaried faculty and staff member sometime during the week ending 9/24/99. If you find that you cannot participate that day, you may make a contribution to the American Cancer Society by donating to this walk. Please help our staff association make this a successful event by participating. For more information, please contact Debbie Elkins at 231-6179.

President Jones announced that the next Staff Senate meeting, October 21, will be held at 5:00pm. This is going to be an open meeting - all employees at Virginia Tech are invited to attend, especially active governance people. **VGEA** (Virginia Governmental Employees Association) lobbyists from Richmond will be featured. For all Staff Senators, this will be counted as a regular meeting to conduct business and your attendance is very important. In addition, the following additional state agencies will be invited to attend: New River Community College, Radford University, Wytheville Community College, and VDOT. Location – TBA by e-mail.

Cindy Harrison announced she'd placed two sheets (one was green; the other, blue) on the table, concerning VGEA (Virginia Governmental Employees Association) coming to Salem on September 21. This is a Candidates' Forum for the greater Roanoke area. It's going to include Senator Madison Mayre and opponent, Jim Jones from this area; but the rest of the senators are going to be from the greater Roanoke area. She is taking questions: anyone from Virginia Tech is invited to come down. Even though these candidates are from Roanoke, they are still the same people who vote on all of the staff legislation, everything that affects state employees/state staff, they are going to be talking about. Please send any questions to Cindy at canoe@vt.edu before next Tuesday and she will take them to the meeting.

Keynote speaker, **Steve Mouras**, is the Director of Transportation, Parking Services for Virginia Tech. He is also the chairman for the CVC campaign. He supervises the Motor Pool, the VT Airport, the Blacksburg Transit on Virginia Tech property (a \$1,000,000 budget), and Records Management. He explained that there has been no concrete plan for where we want to be parking; all that was done was to address small problems as they cropped up. His goal is to establish a Transportation and Parking Master Plan for Virginia Tech, which does not exist at this time. Virginia Tech is a community of 35,000 people, highly intensive in car transportation. VA Tech receives around 20,000-25,000 cars/day. Our community is described as being "pedestrian intensive," which means that these 35,000 people walk on our campus during a normal week day. He stated that "...academic buildings should be within 10 minutes walking distance apart." People at the University should prepare for a "big paradigm shift." As buildings are built, parking spaces are lost. In the future (5-10 years) there will be neither student nor employee parking in the center of campus. Therefore, buses will be used – currently, 95% of bus users are students. Satellite parking may be in the future with shuttle buses bringing students and workers into the core of the campus and returning them to the satellite parking areas. Parking fees will be increased in the future. Currently, it costs \$1,200 to construct one new parking space and \$182/year to maintain. However, if a parking deck is constructed, the cost of one parking space increases to \$15,000. Parking Services does not get one dime of tax dollars. Right now, Parking "lives" off students being ticketed by parking in F/S parking spaces (this generates almost \$1,000,000 in ticket revenue). We (VA Tech) have the lowest rate for parking in the State. A new position has been created at the University for a Traffic Demand Manager, who will design alternative transportation options (transit system, van pooling, ride sharing, walking or taking bikes). Mr. Mouras mentioned that we must learn to identify what we have (on campus) and use it efficiently.

In response to questions asked, Mr. Mouras responded that there are 11,850 parking spaces on campus: 4,195 are F/S (faculty/staff); 4,631 are commuter students/graduate; 2,598 are resident students. In the future, it may be possible that parking fees could be paid with pre-taxed dollars. This is a new concept

which is slowly coming to Virginia. In such an instance, dollars paid for parking hang tags would be subtracted from gross salary income **before** taxes are taken out. In response to the vision of satellite areas and shuttle bus transportation, several senators raised security issues during hours when it is dark.

Mr. Mouras feels it would be important to “showcase” Blacksburg Transit (BT) in the near future. In the long term, riding the bus does more things for us: more environmentally friendly (a lot less pollution generated); will cut a lot of the vehicle traffic; more cost effective. Mr. Mouras stated that he will get some experts to assist them with the actual detail work of how they would phase it in, when to phase it in, how to pay for it. This will be information that will be presented to the campus as a whole using fliers, e-mails, articles in the “Collegiate Times” and “Spectrum” and even putting in kiosks in the student-intense locations. He briefly explained tiered parking (which would be geared toward the more affluent), but he doesn’t feel this would be feasible for VA Tech. He was thanked for sharing the information and his visions with Staff Senate.

Staff Senate Standing Committees Reports:

Communications Committee – Cindy Harrison distributed notes of the 8/31/99 meeting. The Committee will go forward with a Staff Senate newsletter to be printed quarterly.

Nominations and Elections Committee – The Commission on Classified Staff Affairs requested an adjustment to stagger the term expirations of its three Staff Senators. An Executive Committee decision was made prior to the senate meeting to approve the new terms: Christy Porterfield ending in 2002; Jon Wooge, ending in 2001; and Virginia Viers, 2000. This would stagger the ending dates so that all three senators would not leave the commission at the same time. The three appointees agreed to this change. On a unanimous vote, the senate approved the Executive Committee’s decision.

Other actions:)

Susan Anderson was elected to fill the unexpired term of Spencer Allen on the Parking Committee.

A person is sought to fill a vacancy on Intellectual Properties Committee to fill the unexpired term of Tom Hergert. Volunteers (any staff at VA Tech) may contact Becky Barlow at bbarlow@vt.edu.

Policies and Issues: Jimmy Martin asked that committee members present put their name, e-mail address and dates/times which are convenient to meet so a meeting can be set.

Commission on Classified Staff Affairs: Notes of the meeting of 9/8/99 were distributed. Linda Woodard, Sam Camden, and Doug Martin were the featured speakers.

***ALL staff are asked to review the Pay Plan Reform at www.hrs.virginia.edu/hrs/compcomm/eadvmbr.html and notify Linda by e-mail (woodard@vt.edu) if you see an issue that is not being addressed.

NOTE: Once committee members get approved minutes for their committee, please get copies of these minutes to be distributed at our next meeting (there are 31 senators).

President Jones submitted a proposed budget for Staff Senate for 1999-2000, which, on voice vote, was accepted. He will now forward this to Linda Woodard.

A committee was selected to plan the December 9, 1999 Staff Senate monthly meeting and Reunion. Members will be Cindy Harrison, Jesse Eaves, Cathy Hansen and Christy Porterfield.

Two senators raised issues about the negative impact of the restrictive parking and \$5 fee for cars on campus during football games. Cindy Harrison will carry these comments forward.

An advertisement came out concerning large events which entail parking for outside people, call Parking Services and they will help with this.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hansen, Secretary
Staff Senate