

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

Senators present: Becky Barlow, Reba Crawford, Jessie Eaves, Lynne Ellis, Judy Fielder, Janet Francis, Cathy Hansen, Cindy Harrison, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Pam Raines, Hilda Reynolds, Janet Town, Virginia Viers, Debbie Wilson, Jon Wooge, Kathryn Young

Alternates present: Sue Ellen Crocker, Pat Donohoe, Susan Piovano, Joy Thorn, Deb Williams

Excused: Harry Biggs, Jackie Davis, Elva Douthat, Gwen Ewing, Bruce Lytton, Christy Porterfield, Tina Shanklin.

The Virginia Tech Staff Senate was called to order by President Delbert Jones.

It was moved that the agenda be accepted. The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcements:

1. The Staff Senate Reunion will be held December 9 at 5:00pm in the Owens Banquet Room. All Staff Senators, Senate Alternates, Staff Association Officers, and former Staff Senators and Alternates are invited.
2. The McComas Leadership Training will be held May 4, 2000 from 8 am – 12-noon, probably in Owens.
3. CASSA President Husser had asked that we announce there will be a pickup truck in which to drop off your cans and dry packages of food located by the Bloodmobile, sponsored by the Arts & Sciences Staff Association.

Senator Harrison introduced the Honorable Delegate James M. Shuler. Dr. Shuler talked about issues of interest to state employees, including improvements to the salary compensation, the retirement effort (30 years of service and 50 years of age). He discussed the Commission on the Reform of the Commonwealth's Compensation Plan (Linda Woodard is part of this effort). November 30 is the deadline day for the Commission's recommendations. Del. Shuler discussed the "matching compensation in the retirement system" – a legislative bill authorizing up to \$50/month (12) on the part of the State; however the budget writers only wrote in a match of \$10/pay period (24). Del. Shuler has tried to get a bill passed to at least provide a health insurance program for the part-time/full-time wage employees for the past 3 years; now they can possibly join a pool to help afford health insurance. Del. Shuler invited all citizens to contact him on any matter of concern. His office phone: 953-1103 Fax number: 951-4809 Ms. Jo Evans is his legislative assistant and can address any issue in Dr. Shuler's absence. A question/answer period followed. Dr. Shuler writes articles for the "News Messenger" during the legislative sessions.

Minutes for the meeting on October 21, 1999 were approved.

A motion was made to approve the minutes electronically by e-mail from this time forward. The motion was withdrawn and restated: **From this day forward, we will approve minutes electronically with the stipulations that there be a cut-off date and any failure to respond will be construed as an affirmative vote.** The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Standing Committee reports:

Communications Committee – Senator Harrison reported that the committee is proceeding with all of its projects and is working toward a January Staff Senate Newsletter. She invited the staff associations, staff senators, and any of the committees that have reports they would like to be put into the newsletter to contact Cathy Hansen, Delbert Jones, Pat Donohoe, or Milko Maykowskyj by phone or email. All senators and staff employees are encouraged to review the Staff Senate website at www.staffsenate.vt.edu.

Elections and Nominations – Senator Barlow distributed a list of the senators and staff members who are currently serving on university-wide councils, commissions and committees; this was available on the table. Please let Senator Young or her know of any errors or omissions.

McComas Leadership – Senator Eaves is chairperson and the date is set for May 4, 2000 in Owens.

Policies and Issues – Senator Martin reported no new business. The vote for the bylaw change will conclude the end of the month.

Alternate Thorn reported that **Parking and Transportation Committee** made a change to allow graduate students to park around the Drill Field along w/Faculty/Staff from 5pm-8pm, effective next semester (January 2000). The committee is trying to come up w/another level beyond parking tickets to try to stop habitual abusers – maybe using a boot system. She informed us that Ralph Amateis is the chair; problems/questions/comments may be forwarded to him at ralph@vt.edu.

Senator Donohoe distributed a report from the **Building Committee**.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hansen, Secretary
Staff Senate