

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**STAFF SENATE**  
**1810 Litton Reaves**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 15, 2000**

Senators present: Jeannie Baker, Becky Barlow, Sue Ellen Crocker, Elva Douthat, Jessie Eaves, Cindy Harrison, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Ben Poe, and Jon Wooge

Alternates present: Pat Donohoe (representing Sheila Blankenship)

Excused: Harry Biggs, Sheila Blankenship, Reba Crawford, Lynne Ellis, Janet Francis, Christy Porterfield, Virginia Viers, Debbie Wilson

Guests: Wyatt Sasser (representing Reba Crawford), Laura Hodge (Career Services)

The Virginia Tech Staff Senate was called to order by President Delbert Jones at 12-noon.

The Minutes of May 11, 2000 were approved electronically with minor corrections.

**Announcements:** President Jones spoke concerning the Cash/Match Program at Virginia Tech. There are four companies now who offer the employee donation (of cash) with a match from Commonwealth funds. Personnel Services has appointed a committee to review and recommend which companies will participate in the cash/match. Pat Ballard is the staff representative on the committee. To participate in the program, the employee must invest \$40 a pay period to receive a \$20 state match per pay period. If an employee contributes \$20 per pay period (or \$40 per month), the match would be \$10 per pay period (or \$20 per month). If an employee is in a college or in Extension, then the state is going to fund the cash/match. But, those employees who are in an auxiliary or ancillary unit (e.g., Student Health Services), then that unit's budget must provide the funding for the cash/match program. Employees may have a 401a in one company and a 403b in a different company.

**Speaker:** Louellen Sharp, Associate Director of Children's Medical Security Insurance Plan Outreach Project (CMSIP), a program of the Legal Aid Society, distributed two handouts. CMSIP provides complete coverage for medical, dental and vision services, hospitalization, mental health and substance abuse counseling, prescription drugs, physical and occupational therapy – and more! The project encompasses having aid available for clients in the counties of Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and the City of Radford for uninsured children up to age 19. The health insurance is FREE! This is an insurance program for uninsured children whose parents' incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid yet the parents are employed but the employer does not provide medical insurance for the children. CMSIP is federally- and state-funded through Social Services (Christiansburg), though the fund is paid out of the Virginia Health Care Foundation. The role of the CMSIP program of the Legal Aid Society is to provide the application and guidance for completing the application. Then CMSIP will process the

verifications.

Verifications include proof of income and an employer questionnaire. The following verifications are required: 1) that the child(ren) not have been medically insured elsewhere; 2) that the child(ren) have been "uninsured (medically) for the previous 12 months;" 3) that there has been "cooperation" of the parents who are separated or divorced. That means that the absent parent must be sending support currently and regularly. The absent parent must complete a form and stipulate that s/he is providing support. This proof must be shown to the Department of Child Support Enforcement.

Some of the current written rules can be "bent" to fit unusual situations. The Commonwealth has proposed lessening the 12-months of no insurance coverage to 6-months or possibly no waiting period. However, the proposals must be confirmed by the federal government before they can be enacted in Virginia. For more information, contact Rhonda Seltz, Director, CMSIP at 382-5629 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

If an employee loses his/her employment (quit, was fired, etc.) and loses his/her insurance through that employer, the child(ren) would immediately qualify as long as there is no COBRA coverage. The CMSIP office is open Monday - Friday from 9am-5pm. It is staffed by two full-time employees and some volunteers. An educational effort for CMSIP currently is being enacted with Virginia Tech Housekeeping and Culinary Services.

Senators, please get this information posted throughout your department by email and hard copy (for those who do not have email). **Senators are asked to get the word out to all employees.**

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**Holidays** - Senator Harrison announced the Virginia Governmental Employees Association (VGEA) in Richmond reported that the Department of Personnel and Training (DPT) issued an email on June 13 that the governor has authorized state offices to be closed on July 3. We are waiting to hear from Virginia Tech if classes will be held or cancelled. Senator Field said VDOT heard the same news.

VGEA discusses the new State Grievance Procedure in the current newsletter. Senators who are not members of VGEA and wish to join may contact Senator Barlow or Senator Harrison.

"What is Campus Pipeline?" questioned Senator Baker. President Jones stated that he will find out.

### **Standing Committees:**

**Communications Committee** - The proposed **draft** of the Staff Senate Newsletter, "Around The Drillfield" was distributed. Each issue is open for contributions from each staff association, each Senate committee and Standing committees, and any known special events. Chair Patrick Donohoe announced a distribution date in August 2000.

**Elections and Nominations Committee** - President Jones requested nominations for the position of Secretary of Staff Senate, which will be voted at the next Senate meeting (July 20). Also, Milko Maykowskyj has resigned as a senator in Staff Senate. He leaves a vacancy on the Advisory Council of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, which will be filled at the July meeting.

**McComas Seminar:** Senator Eaves reported that 56 governance people attended the annual seminar. Fifty-two evaluations were turned in. A recommendation was made that more time be scheduled between speakers (filler) to permit set up time for presentations, i.e., planned mini-diversions could fill the awkward gap. Five representatives from Radford University attended the McComas Seminar. They were favorably impressed and requested assistance setting up something similar at Radford. The Virginia Tech Staff Senate will work closely with Radford.

**Thanks:** President Jones delivered certificates of “thanks” to Elva Douthat, Judy Fielder, Cindy Harrison, Janet Francis, and Ginny Viers as they complete their terms as staff senators.

Senator Barlow, chair of **Nominations and Elections**, requested that all staff associations contact her to give information on newly elected officers, senators, and senate alternates. This is essential to set up mailing lists and update the ListServ. President Jones will send out a reminder.

President Jones stated again that Senators appointed to university committees, councils and commission are “excused” from their regular jobs for the governance meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

**NOTE: Next Staff Senate meeting will be July 20, 2000 at 12 noon.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hansen, Recorder

