

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE
1810 Litton Reaves
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 20, 2000

Senators present: Jeannie Baker, Harry Biggs, Reba Crawford,Carolyn Dudding, Lynne Ellis, Gwen Ewing, Delbert Jones, Jimmy Martin, Ben Poe, Pam Raines, Hilda Reynolds, Wyatt Sasser, Virginia Viers

Alternates present: Mary Ann Cole (representing Sue Ellen Crocker), Linda Correll, Patrick Donohoe (representing Sheila Blankenship), Cindy Harrison, Suzanne Piovano (representing Judy Fielder),

Excused: Becky Barlow, Sue Ellen Crocker, Jackie Davis, Jessie Eaves, Judy Fielder, Christy Porterfield

Guests: Robin Atkins, Shelia Collins, Missy Graham.

The Virginia Tech Staff Senate was called to order by President Delbert Jones. He welcomed the out-going Staff Senators and the newly-elected Staff Senators. The senate membership list is incomplete, so a sign-up sheet was circulated. Each senator introduced him/herself, telling which department he/she represented.

Last month's minutes (June 15, 2000) were approved electronically.

First speaker: Vicky Carroll presented information about the **Minority Mentoring Program for Classified Staff at Virginia Tech** for which in April, 1999, a grant was submitted and accepted, where newly-hired classified staff are offered the opportunity to use "advisors" or "mentors" who may be called on to assist with "knowing the ropes" of getting things done at Virginia Tech and whom to contact for workplace resources. Included in the "minority" designation are those classes designated by the federal government as minorities (all ethnic and gender groups including white women, as well as males in employee, grades 5-7, who work in positions traditionally filled by females). She distributed a handout which included a list of current mentors who may be contacted for more information. She asked that this be distributed by the senators to people in their department who may be interested in having a mentor or volunteering to be a mentor. Any classified staff (including employees with technical skills) who wishes to serve as a mentor may contact Ms. Carroll's office. An advisee and a mentor will not be matched from the same department. This is a program of assistance that is outside of the office training responsibilities. This program currently performs under a grant, fully funded for 2000-01. There is a possibility that this program may be "adopted" by Personnel Services in the future and the program would be expanded to include **all** classified staff, all grades.

Second speaker: Lisa Halleck, Compliance Officer from the **Equal Opportunity Affirmative**

Action Office (EOAA), located in 336 Burruss Hall at Virginia Tech. Some problems she receives and investigates deal with race, color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation. Some complaints brought before Ms. Halleck are really cases for Personnel Services to handle. For additional information, contact Bev Bond at 1-7500 or the website: www.unirel.vt.edu/vt/eoaa.html. A discussion on the full program was in *The Spectrum* on May 5, 2000. The plans are to have a series of these articles in the future.

Announcements:

President Jones promised the Staff Senators that at the next meeting, they will have a copy of guidelines and information on how the Senate is organized and how to use parliamentary procedures at the meetings.

All Staff Senators and Senate Alternates will be appointed to standing committees within Staff Senate, in accordance with the Senate bylaws. Senators should review the list of standing committees on the agenda and select the one on which they would like to serve. Then they should contact President Jones immediately at dejones@vt.edu or 1-3718. Senators and Alternates who have not selected a committee will be placed on a committee before the next meeting by the President.

To reactivate a staff association: Any employee who does not know how to contact his/her staff association should contact President Jones at email dejones@vt.edu.

The **October 19, 2000** Staff Senate meeting will be held at **5:30pm**. There will be a reception for guests Joan Dent, Executive Director of Virginia Governmental Employees Association (VGEA), and Glen Pond, Legislative Representative from VGEA. The reception and address will count as a full Staff Senate meeting for all senators. All senators, alternates, and staff association officers will be invited by email. Also invited will be VDOT, Radford University, New River Community College, Virginia tech employees and others.

For your information, the dues for VGEA are \$24/year. You may choose to have \$1/pay period taken out of your regular salary check.

Standing Committees' Reports:

Communications Committee: This committee has revised the Staff Senate "Welcome!" letter, which is distributed by Personnel Services during orientation for new classified staff employees. A copy was distributed at the senate meeting. The Staff Senate newsletter meeting scheduled with Larry Hinker, Linda Woodard, Terry Lawrence and Patrick Donohoe has been postponed.

Suzanne Piovano will be the staff representative on the Project Subcommittee for the Bioinformatics (tobacco) Building Project. **Hilda Reynolds** will serve on the Project Subcommittee for the Geo-Technical Laboratory Facility. President Jones thanked them for volunteering their time.

Senator Harrison distributed a handout concerning Virginia Tech's voluntary medical insurance for students who are not covered by their parents' insurance or any other policy. This policy offers group rates and good coverage. She also had a handout from the Department of Transportation, Steve Mouras, a statement on "Transportation & Parking Initiatives, Fall 2000."

Senator Harrison represented Virginia Tech Staff Senate at a special meeting of the Radford University Staff Senate under its new president, Holly Shannon. The guest speaker was Joan Dent, Executive Director of the VGEA, who spoke about all current issues adopted by the Y-2000 General Assembly and issues to come before the Y-2001 General Assembly.

Approximately 100 Radford employees attended this meeting. Senator Harrison brought greetings from the Virginia Tech Staff Senate to the Radford Staff Senate and announced that President Jones has appointed an ad hoc committee from Virginia Tech to serve as liaison with the Radford senate: Judy Fielder and Cindy Harrison will serve in support of mutual program efforts, special events, policy interpretation and activities on behalf of all Virginia State employees.

Elections: Ballots were distributed for the position of Staff Senate secretary. Pam Raines was announced as the new secretary of the 2000-2001 Staff Senate. Congratulations, Pam!

President Jones announced that the September Staff Senate meeting, September 21, will be held in a different room. He will send out an email to members as to where the meeting will be held.

NOTE: Next Staff Senate meeting will be August 17, 2000 at 12-noon at 1810 Litton Reaves Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hansen, Transcriber
Cindy Harrison, Secretary Pro tem