

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Smithfield Room at IVTSCC, Thursday, September 15, 2011
12:00 noon – 1:00 P.M.

Attending: Susan Archer, Jeff Burr, Sarah Castle, Joseph Goodman, Lori Greiner, Velva Groover, Jennifer Hanratty, Robena Hughes, Delbert Jones, Judy Jones, Shelly Key, Heather Baldwin-Patel, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Robert Sebeck, Louellen Sharp, David Sindt, Judy Taylor, Chris Thomas, Leslie Thornton-O'Brien, Amy Tunison, Beverly Williams, and Patricia Williams.

Excused: Anna Hawthorne, Maxine Lyons, Allison Rubio, and Sue Teel.

Opening: Parliamentarian Jean Brickey, in the medical absence of President Maxine Lyons, called the meeting to order at noon.

Announcements: Jean Brickey passed around information about the NOVA food drive, and announced that the on-line roster is "NUTD" (not up to date) because of internet wiring problems within the Library.

Standing Committee Reports:

Wyatt Sasser, who substituted in Sue Teel's absence, represented the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs at a meeting of Commission Chairs with Dr. Steger and Dr. McNamee, reported that parking fees, particularly for pay bands 1 and 2, were discussed.

The Commission on Faculty Affairs met September 9 and primarily discussed conviction checks for faculty. As an addendum Dr. Finney mentioned that the policy of requiring conviction checks on all new faculty will be brought before the Faculty Senate for a vote. The conviction check requirement will eventually be expanded to include all new employees. Right now it includes everyone who reports to the president, budget officers, and those who care for small children. Only publically available information is sought, and employment denial is based on a conviction relevant to the job for which one is applying. Department of Motor Vehicle drivers checks are now required for anyone who is responsible for vehicles. Temporary offers of employment are made pending results of a conviction check. The procedure is moving quickly to include P14 and temporary hires, as well as vendors who serve the campus.

Robena Hughes reported on the September 13 meeting of the Athletics Committee where discussion centered on team schedules, missed class time, student athlete academic performance, a report from the Office of Student Life, and portable "bleacher chairs" being banned from Lane Stadium.

Patricia Williams, Staff Senate representative to the Transportation/Parking Committee, requested input from Senators on what we would like the Committee to address this year. At their meeting on Wednesday, September 14, the proposal of a multi-modal hub in the Derring Lot was discussed.

Program: Presented by Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Jack Finney on the new Strategic Plan.

Deans and Vice Presidents were asked to nominate participants for the strategic planning process, and 54 were selected from the 120 nominees. Evaluating how successful we are operating against the current plan is part of the process for going forward with the new Strategic Plan. Research dollars have doubled, and we are currently on plan with our finances despite a \$70 million budget cut since 2002.

The new strategic plan is being developed along five lines of emphasis, issues that will form the new plan, with a subcommittee for each. Tomorrow's Leaders is focusing on equipping undergraduates with knowledge, skills, and vision to become leaders. Tomorrow's Scholars seeks to align the curricula of our 600 graduate disciplines and degrees to attract the best students and prepare them for leadership in their chosen profession. Tomorrow's University is studying the implications for growth in any direction and seeking ways of applying VT's existing resources and securing additional resources to meet the varying demographics and needs of our students as well as raise the national and international profile of VT. Research and scholarship are the foci of Tomorrow's Knowledge, shifting from quantity and being among the top 30 research institutions to the quality of that research. Envisioning Excellence will focus on embracing a culture of innovation and looking at innovative financial models for we are at the limit of tuition increases.

The next building priorities will be classrooms and laboratory space with few offices, not research buildings. Squires will soon be replaced.

When asked if staffing issues would be addressed by the plan, Dr. Finney agreed that more students and more faculty would increase the burden on current staff and should be addressed. He encouraged Staff Senate feedback, and suggested that we direct further queries and suggestions about the Strategic Plan to him via e-mail. He will forward them on to the appropriate subcommittee.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, October 20, in a location yet to be determined. The guest speaker is to be determined as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Archer
Senate Secretary