

**COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY SUPPORT  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 19, 2009  
Burruss Hall, Room 325**

**PRESENT:**

Members: Bradley Scott, Chair, Leslie O'Brien, Michael Evans, Richard Stratton, Sean Arthur, Chris Parmeter, Sherwood Wilson, Mike Coleman, Angelo Colon, Angela Hayes (for Betsy Flanagan), Pat Rodgers (for Erv Blythe), Mike Martin

Guests: John Randolph, Denny Cochrane, Angela DeSoto, Mark Owczarski

Recorder: Vickie Chiocca, Administrative Assistant

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Bradley Scott called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Motion was made to approve the agenda with two changes—to elect next year's Chair and ask for someone to represent CUS at the April 6 UC meeting. Motion carried and approved unanimously.

**2. Announcement of approval of February 19, 2009 minutes**

B. Scott noted the minutes were approved by electronic vote.

**3. New Business**

B. Scott introduced Professor John Randolph who then presented the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment for second reading and vote before the Commission. Professor Randolph stated that subsequent to the Commission's first reading he, Mike Coleman, and Denny Cochrane had a very productive meeting with Dwight Shelton and reviewed the language in the Climate Action Commitment. He was very supportive. He recommended that in general we focus on the Commitment language and let his office identify sources of funding. Kim O'Rourke reviewed the Commitment and has a couple of suggestions which have been incorporated. Changes include the following:

Item #6, added the language "which may include" prior to the listing of specific funding sources, so there is no commitment of specific funding mechanisms. The language regarding the Student Green Fee remained as previously worded.

Item #7, regarding LEED certification—even though may want to do this, the university may not get monies from the state to fund so added sentence on capital budgets. A second sentence was added which reads "Capital budgets should account for future energy price, cost of building operation, return on investment, and environmental benefits of achieving this level of performance." This will allow for life cycle cost considerations.

The last "Whereas" of resolution changed the number of current Student Organizations from 24 to 18 to be accurate (noting number often changes).

Item #14, modified language to include a requirement for an "annual report card" showing progress towards targets, the re-evaluation of targets, and adjustments to targets as appropriate. This is a living document and it must allow for changing internal and external conditions and evolving technologies.

Item #8, on improvements to campus facilities and operations will take lead from energy service companies (ESO's). There is a state incentive fund for this.

Professor Randolph asked how the commission would like to deal with the sustainability plan and said he would like to see some sort of endorsement of it. There was some discussion regarding this and language for adopting both the resolution and the plan.

Prof. Randolph briefed the commission on a meeting with President Steger on March 6 where they presented the VTCAC & SP. The meeting was altogether positive. Prof. Randolph stated that President Steger asked that we identify a few things we would like to pursue soonest, once the Commitment is approved.

Questions and discussion followed and included challenges presented for VT, how plan compares to other universities commitments.

Prof. Randolph noted that our plan does not include climate neutrality but we are much further along. Also our plan was different since the President wanted us to go through University governance to get the University behind it.

Angie DeSoto also mentioned the student's played a large role with a widespread commitment by student groups and involvement in the process, to make it a part of the "fabric of the university."

If it passes the Commission, the resolution will go on to University Council for review and approval.

Motion was made to vote for approval of the VTCAC Resolution 2008-2009C with approval of motion also expressing acceptance and endorsement of the VT Sustainability Plan. Motion carried and passed unanimously.

It was noted the resolution will be sent for vote at the next University Council meeting on March 30.

Pat Rodgers will continue as Faculty representative to T&P committee since this is the last meeting of the commission. Commission can decide next year if it would like to consider changing bylaws to allow "any member" of commission as the representative.

Bradley Scott then asked for nomination for election of next year's Chair. Bradley Scott nominated Leslie O'Brien and asked if there were any other nominations. There being no other nominations, motion was made to elect Leslie O'Brien as Chair of the Commission of University Support for 2009-2010. Motion carried and was passed unanimously.

#### **4. Acceptance of Committee Minutes**

There was a question regarding how parking fees are set since concerns have been raised about how lower pay-band employees can afford the cost. Parking makes recommendations and the Budget Office sets the fee. Sherwood Wilson reported that they are looking at options such as a tiered payment system. The following committee minutes were then accepted for filing.

Energy and Sustainability Committee Minutes  
January 26, 2009

Building Committee Minutes  
January 22, 2009

Transportation and Parking Committee Minutes  
December 9, 2008

**5. Future meeting dates and announcements**

Bradley Scott said the meeting scheduled for April 16 was cancelled due to Remembrance Day ceremonies. He would like to leave May 21 open (if needed) in case any questions come about on the VTCAC Resolution at the University Council. Leslie O'Brien will present the resolution for first reading at the next University Council meeting. Either Mike Coleman or Professor Randolph will be in attendance at future UC meetings when this item is on the agenda, in the event of any questions. They are voting on the resolution and not the Sustainability Plan, but the CUS approval endorses the Plan. Bradley Scott asked for a volunteer to represent the CUS for the April 6 UC meeting, scheduled from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. He asked that everyone look at their calendars and let him or Vickie Chiocca know if they could attend. Bradley will try to attend the meeting if there are no volunteers.

Sherwood Wilson reported that the smoking policy resolution is going before the Board of Visitor's for approval on Monday.

There was discussion regarding next year's meeting schedule and consensus was to continue the same schedule--the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm (Sept. 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15).

**6. Adjournment**

Motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Chiocca