COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY SUPPORT
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2009
Burruss Hall, Room 325

PRESENT:
Members: Leslie O'Brien, Chair, Angela Hayes (for Betsy Flanagan), Bradley Scott, Mike Martin, Sue Ott Rowlands, Jim Tokuhisa, Sherwood Wilson, Pat Rodgers (for Erv Blythe), Michael Evans, Jim McCoy (for Mike Coleman), Amro Ahmed, Tom Tillar, Guy Sims (for Ed Spencer)

Guests: John Moore, Senior Director, Strategy and Planning for Learning Technologies

Recorder: Vickie Chiocca

Leslie O'Brien called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
L. O'Brien thanked everyone for their participation
There will be a change of membership next year; will be looking for a chair elect for next year and to be chair for the 2011-2012 academic year; let L. O'Brien know if interested

1. **Approval of agenda**

   L. O'Brien requested change to order of items, so that John Moore could report at the beginning.

2. **Announcement of approval of March 18, minutes**

   These minutes were approved electronically.

3. **New Business**

   John Moore, Senior Director for Strategy and Planning for Learning Technologies (LT) gave a report on the Learning Technologies advisory committee. They have a number of operations that effect personnel, students, faculty, and staff. Highlighted ones are:

   - Faculty development institute
   - Graduate education development institute
   - Services around Scholar and Blackboard
   - Electronic portfolios
   - Online course evaluations
   - Assistive technologies
   - InnovationSpace (used to be media center)
   - Computer Integrated learning spaces
   - Visual Imaging repository
   - Testing and Data services

   – Mission is available on web site. LT is about teaching and learning.
   – Advisory committee was set up in fall of 2007.
   – Charge: to provide advice and counsel that assists in guiding, supporting and communicating LTs strategic aims.
   – Membership: 5 faculty, 1 A/P, 5 VPs (ex officio) and 7 staff

- Members are invited to serve by Associate Vice President (AVP)
- Committee size is small to encourage fluid interaction, discussion and representation with a pretty wide-range perspective.
- Terms are 2 years, staggered, so have history on group.
- Meet 3-4x in academic year with next meeting in 2 weeks.
  Have similar committees in other areas of Information Technology (IT) and collectively they meet twice a year in a more integrated setting to discuss overarching challenges for centralizing.
- Meetings are structured to get level of conversation deeper, for a more critical level of thinking among the membership. Have rotating series of presentations in any given meeting both by faculty and by staff. Working assumption is "faculty need to tell us things, we need to tell them things and we need to discuss jointly" some pretty serious issues; Moved to this feature/presenter format in January 2009 and since then, have had more presentations by faculty so focus here on conversation is to ask members to look forward—5 to 10 years out in their disciplines and tell us about changes they foresee, such as what your field need to do differently 10 years out, what would your students need to know and be able to do 10 years from now and think with us on how that future might drive changes in your curriculum, your teaching, and your technologies. That conversation helps inform us to do this right, to build infrastructure out, to build support services; help get them there, rather than completely assume and miss. We also try to get conversations about services, facilities, resources, policies, thinks that can further the effective use of technologies and to seek the help of people on that committee for communications channels, to help share information and collaborate on planning. We've also had presentations this year from undergraduate and graduate students. (Have also been doing focus groups this semester with several groups on several issues that are looking forward).
- In addition to this overarching committee for learning technologies we also put together one specifically on scholar. We have almost 30 people from everywhere—every college, most associate deans, administrative units, undergrads, graduate students, etc., provide counsel to us and also again work as a communication channel in both directions.
- The web site link with example of the minutes was shown to the committee. Minutes are available from the learning technologies web site, www.lt.vt.edu, at: http://www.lt.vt.edu/Advisory_Committee/LT_advisory_committee.html.
- There are 5 advisory committees, with the minutes available for 4 of the committees in place (at the following URLs):
  - Research Computing: http://www.arc.vt.edu/arc/AboutARC.php
  - Learning Technologies: http://www.lt.vt.edu/
  - Communications Network Services: http://www.cns.vt.edu/
  - Secure Enterprise Technology Initiatives: http://security.vt.edu/it_security_subcom.html
  - Enterprise Systems: In process

Transportation and Parking Resolution – First Reading
Memorandum with Parking and Athletics is currently being reviewed as part of the budget process. There was discussion whether this resolution is more of a recommendation rather than a resolution that takes a specific action. S. Wilson stated it is beyond the commission's purview to pass a resolution to give Parking Services the authority to do anything financially. L. O'Brien suggested may want to wait until the fall. S. Wilson recommended that would be

the best approach, after the budget is announced for next year. L. O'Brien understands the philosophy behind the resolution, but committee can't make a specific recommendation on setting fees.

S. Wilson-the more appropriate recommendation to come from this group would be, "We encourage management to review and keep parking rates as low as possible and additionally, consider a remote lot for lower paid employees or reduced fee or something similar."

4. **Reports from Committee Chairs/Representatives**

Jim McCoy briefed the committee on the Energy and Sustainability committee March meeting. The university came up with the Green Campus Challenge in response to the Green Commonwealth Challenge-Executive Order 82 whereby a series of questions (related to energy conservation, waste management, travel and transportation) was circulated via an online survey throughout the university to get a feel for best practices and who is doing what. Extended deadline and have a participation rate of ~ 45%. Student from Environmental Coalition briefed on Earth Week. Also had presentation on Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) update, a new assessment system similar to sustainability report card that the university has participated in the last few years from the sustainability endowment institute. This is from ASHE, the pre-emininent sustainability organization in the higher ed community. They've institute a program very similar to the LEED program (for building certification). Pretty intense, we signed as a charter member to participate. The data gathering component is far more extensive. Information is due by end of calendar year. All of our peers within higher ed community will participate.

Building committee—focus of meeting was a presentation by Ken Smith from provost office on renovation updates going on within general assignment classrooms. There is some stimulus money to fund the updates.

J. Tokuhisa asked if a reference to "20th Century labs" in the HABBI update in the Feb. 25 minutes building committee minutes should read "21st Century." J. McCoy said he will follow-up and check.

P. Rodgers asked, "Do they plan to have one greenhouse that replaces all the current greenhouses?" J. McCoy stated this is going to be over several years—the ultimate build-out. At this point they are establishing a precinct or an area for these buildings. Not certain of the ultimate build-out. Right now, this is a land planning exercise. There is a need for that and the parking structure.

L. O'Brien asked, "Will there be a tie-in with the sustainability initiatives for gardens on campus?" J. McCoy suspects there will be a sustainability tie-in to everything we do. This will be a component part of every activity we have.

L. O'Brien attended the last Transportation and Parking committee meeting. They talked about the resolution. At today's meeting (if it is still on) they plan to have students come to do survey; unsure of survey topic.

B. Scott said Staff Senate raised concern about the temporary handicap parking spaces being displaced when Shultz lot removed and due to the Performing Arts Center and Turner St. Project.

S. Wilson said, by law we are required to have a certain percentage of handicap spaces and Steve Mouras will have the exact number and is confident we have the sufficient number.

There is still a concern over the placement of spaces, when Shultz lot is removed rather than the percentage, so that would be a question to address at the next T&P committee meeting.

New parking garage will provide a huge net increase in spaces.

5. **Acceptance of Committee Minutes**
   The following minutes were accepted for filing (with questions as noted above)
   Building Committee Minutes (February 25, 2010)
   Energy and Sustainability Committee Minutes (February 22, 2010)
   Transportation and Parking Committee Minutes (March 18, 2010)

6. **Next year's meeting dates** – will take place the same time of day and month next year (The third Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm (Sept. 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21)

Adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Chiocca