

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

**PRESENT:**

Members: Bradley Scott, Chair, Pat Rodgers (for Erv Blythe), Mike Martin, Sarah Castle, Leslie O'Brien, Julie Shumaker (for Betsy Flanagan), Michael Evans, Christopher Parmeter, Sherwood Wilson, Mike Coleman, Jerry Niles (Interim VP and Dean for Undergraduate Education), Sam Albimino (for Tom Tillar) Debra Stoudt (for Sue Ott Rowlands), Guy Sims (for Ed Spencer)

Guests: John Randolph, Linda Woodard, Angie DeSoto, Cortney Martin, Denny Cochrane

Recorder: Vickie Chiocca, Administrative Assistant

1. **Bradley Scott called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.** Agenda was approved with no changes.
2. **Minutes from the November 20, 2008 meeting.** B. Scott announced minutes were approved by electronic vote with no further changes or comments.
3. **New Business.**

B. Scott asked if there were any faculty representatives willing to represent CUS on the Transportation and Parking committee. Since there were no volunteers, suggestion was made to table until the next meeting when more of the new faculty representatives may be present.

Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability (VTCAC) Plan was presented by Professor John Randolph. (See Attachment 1 for full presentation.)

**Highlights from presentation:**

President Steger charged the Energy and Sustainability Committee (E&SC) to develop a Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan specific to the University to complete governance review by spring 2008. The Committee established the VTCAC subcommittee (now 25 members) to discuss options and recommendations. The draft report is very close to completion and under review. CUS is the primary vehicle to advance through governance though other commissions will be involved. It is a large report covering all aspects of the University. It builds on energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory completed by students. Recognizes that reducing utilities costs is compatible with solutions to energy and emissions.

The President's Climate Commitment (PCC) (signed by 600 university presidents) calls for climate neutrality which most interpret as zero net carbon emissions. Emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 is a popular goal of others: the Governor's Commission on Climate Change, the Governor, the Town of Blacksburg, the Obama administration. We aren't alone in this quest and will be aided by actions from above to reduce emissions from things we can't control (AEP fuel sources, auto emissions, state mandates, etc.)

Work has been identified for prospective action of the VTCAC & SP as immediate (2009-2012), Midterm (2013-2025) and Longterm (2026-2050). The plan consists of 6 major components: Administrative Structure and Governance; Facilities Infrastructure; facilities operation; transportation; behavior and campus life; academic programs. (See attached presentation for details.)

Next they will gather comments from many stakeholders, present draft to President Steger, and go through Governance (E&SC and CUS). The first reading is planned for the February 19 CUS meeting. It will be in two-parts: 1. The VTCAC—a policy statement in the form of a short resolution and 2. The Sustainability Action Plan—which will be the bigger document. The will be a draft of the resolution for first reading at the February 19 meeting.

**4. Old Business**

B. Scott announced that Resolution 2008-2009B to amend smoking policy is on agenda for first reading at the Feb. 2 University Council meeting.

**5. Acceptance of Committee Notes/Minutes**

Committee minutes were accepted with no comments.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Chiocca