

**COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY SUPPORT  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 15, 2016  
130 Burruss Hall**

**MEMBERS**

Members Present: Richard Ashley (Chair), Mary Christian, William Dougherty (for Scott Midkiff), Angela Hayes (for Charles Phlegar), Robin Jones, Chris Kiwus, Edward Lener, Daniel Newcomb, Heather Parrish, Savita Sharma (for Dwight Shelton), Ken Smith, Ryan Speer, Sherwood Wilson

Members Absent: Hunter Bowers, Felicia Etzkorn, Kathy Hosig (with notice), Bradley Klein (with notice), Christina Lapel, Don Taylor

Guests: Denny Cochrane, Thanassis Rikakis

**Recorder:** Vickie Chiocca

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Chair, Richard Ashley, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of April 21, 2016 Minutes**

The minutes from the April 21, 2016 Commission meeting were approved.

**3. New Business**

Thanassis Rikakis, Executive Vice President and Provost, was introduced to the Commission membership. The Chair reviewed the Committee Charge with the Provost and membership. The Chair opened the floor for questions. William Dougherty asked what obstacles the Provost has identified during planning processes in his first year at Virginia Tech.

Thanassis Rikakis believes Virginia Tech is poised for growth and national impact noting it's integrative, interdisciplinary structure and forward-thinking approach towards team-building and establishing partnerships. The most significant challenges include:

- Budget, since tuition is at a tipping point nationally and out-of-state enrollment is dropping.
- Space and specifically the need for more shared space.
  - The new classroom building is an excellent example of a facility that promotes VT-shaped knowledge building, creativity, and connectivity.
  - The Campus Master Plan update process provides an opportunity for the Commission to provide input into future space management goals and systems.

Discussion followed and centered on more flexible capital for building projects, increasing space utilization rates, and a more adaptive/less rigid curriculum structure. Thanassis Rikakis stated that he looked forward to receiving additional feedback from constituents as the various planning processes evolve.

#### **4. Old Business**

The Chair shared that Ryan Speer was previously selected as the Commission's 2016-17 representative to the Transportation and Parking Committee.

#### **5. New Business**

The Chair asked if there were nominations or volunteers for Vice-Chair of the 2016-17 Commission. Since there were no recommendations, the Chair requested that Vickie Chiocca facilitate a volunteer process prior to the next meeting.

The Chair discussed the meeting dates/times, on the third Thursday of every month, that have been established and requested that members send a substitute to meetings if they are unable to attend.

The following potential topics and agenda items were proposed and discussed:

- **Consideration of the Spring 2016 Student Government Association (SGA) resolution regarding "Addition of Electronic Cigarettes to Policy 1010":**

At the April 2016 meeting, the SGA proposed the resolution. Since it was too late in the academic year to discuss and act on, the Commission did not take action in May 2016.

At previous Commission meetings in 2014-15, Yohna Chambers from Human Resources (HR) met with the Commission to present information regarding the potential addition of electronic cigarettes or other alternative tobacco products to University Policy 1010. At the time, the Commission determined that the issue needed more study and there was not enough consensus to proceed.

William Dougherty made a motion (which was seconded and passed) directing the Chair to reach out to HR administration (Kirk Wehner and Lisa Wilkes) and to the current SGA representative (Hunter Bowers). Sherwood Wilson amended the motion to also state that the membership reach out to their constituencies, to inquire if there is sufficient level of interest to warrant a change in policy. The motion, as amended, was approved.

- **Master Plan Updates from Jason Soileau**

- **Information Technology Updates including:**

- Scott Midkiff, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, to provide updates at least once a year
- William Dougherty to provide summaries (links) for the Information Technology subcommittee meetings
- Strategic Planning Goals for the IT Division / IT Engineering / Research and High Performance Computing
- Dale Pike, Technology-Enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) on transition to Canvas
- Debbie Fulton, Enterprise Systems/Banner
- William Dougherty, IT infrastructure

- **Energy and Sustainability Presentation in Spring 2017**

- **Stadium Woods Update by Jason Soileau**

- **Field trip to new Hyperloop**

Vickie. Chiocca will work on scheduling presentations on the proposed topics. The Chair asked members to send any other issues for consideration to Vickie Chiocca, [vchiocca@vt.edu](mailto:vchiocca@vt.edu).

### **Reports from Committee Chairs/Representatives**

Denny Cochrane reported on the following upcoming topics of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee**:

- Green RFP program (student proposed budget requests for sustainable projects); and
- Sustainability Week – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary takes place September 18-25  
Highlights of the event include a Campus Tree Planting and Celebration Ceremony on September 22. Details are available at:  
<http://sustainableblacksburgva.org/events/sustainability-week-2016/>

Sherwood Wilson acknowledged Denny Cochrane for his 10 years as the Sustainability Program Manager and contribution to the success of the program as evidenced by the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sustainability Week.

Jason Soileau was not available to report on the Campus Development Committee and they have not yet had their first meeting of the 2016-17 academic year.

Ryan Speer said the Transportation and Parking Committee also has not met this academic year.

### **6. Acceptance of Committee Minutes**

The following committee minutes were accepted by the Commission for posting:

- Energy & Sustainability Committee – March 28, 2016
- Transportation & Parking Committee – April 27, 2016

### **7. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date is scheduled October 20, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in 130 Burruss Hall.

**Adjourned** at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Chiocca