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**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JUNE 27, 2008  
ENGINEERING BUILDING  
3:15-5:00 p.m.**



**ATTENDANCE:** President Eddie N. Moore, Jr., presiding; Dr. Asmare Atalay, Dr. Benita Brown, Ms. Clementine Cone, Ms. Malika Forbes, Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Ms. Judy Marchand, Ms. Paula McCapes, Dr. Brian Nerrie, Dr. Ben Nwoke, Dr. Claire Robinson, Dr. Colleen Taylor, and Dr. W. Eric Thomas.  
**Visitors:** Dr. Randy Holmes. **Regrets:** Maxine Sample and Dr. Robert Turner.

**I. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the May 2 meeting were revised and approved.

**II. Report and Recommendations from the Chair:**

- A. **Outlook:** President Moore noted that the past two months were very busy, but ended with a very successful commencement with an exciting speaker. Orientations are progressing with a potential record freshman class. Because the VSU tuition increase is less than 4%, unlike other institutions, a one-year allocation of \$316,000 was received. However, this will be consumed by increased fuel costs.
- B. **Bond Bill:** The group that was insuring one of the construction bonds had been downgraded, so one had to be reissued with a new guarantee from the Bank of America.
- C. **Board of Visitors Meeting:** The BOV meeting dealt primarily with the Foundation and Village of Ettrick issues.
- D. **SACS:** The State Council has accepted the University Restructuring Plan. Although there were three "red lights", the university has submitted a plan to remedy the concerns. VSU continues to work on improving student retention, especially those with high GPAs, with even the President calling students.
- E. **President's Travel:** President Moore will leave in July for Ethiopia and return to campus in August.

**III. Provost Report:**

- A. Summer School's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> sessions had over 1000 students enrolled in each. At the close of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session there were over 900 in each session. The 134 classes will be reduced to 120 to keep within the budget.
- B. We are half-way through the total of 8 freshman orientations (4 in June and 4 in July) with over 600 students having attended. Students must pay part of the deposit to attend. Two hundred have signed up for session 5. There will be a reassessment meeting after session 6.
- C. **Housing:** It may be necessary to tell the students that there may not be any place for them to stay. Enrollment may be as high as 1400. A cut off date of June 1 had been set, but are not full as of today. This deadline has not been held to in the past. The information on procedures for incoming students including room forfeiture policy is found on the

VSU website. It was suggested that a letter be sent to upper-class students on the deadlines to be followed.

- D. Transfer students: There is no specific orientation for transfer students, but they are expected to adhere to the same policy as upper-classmen.
- E. Off-campus housing for freshmen: Freshmen can live off-campus if they reside within 25 miles or live with a close relative, there needs to be a parental waiver that indicates that parents are aware of off-campus housing.
- F. Opening Conference: There will be a scaled back opening Conference on August 11 to make faculty more available to students. There will be no luncheon with some workshops on Monday afternoon and Tuesday.
- G. New Faculty: There will be 12-15 new faculty with the limited number due to budget constraints and the inability to fill positions.

#### IV. **Committee Reports:**

- A. **Strategic Planning Committee** (Ms. Cone reporting): It has been a difficult year fiscally. The last of the invoices have been processed but some items are still outstanding and will be processed in 2009. The budget for next fiscal year will be ready next week. On the capital side:
  - 1. Gandy Hall occupancy can proceed;
  - 2. Received occupancy for Rogers Stadium;
  - 3. Final inspection for Gateway: 2 fire inspections completed so far.
  - 4. Next: Trickle Hall's handicap ramp and sprinkler system to be completed;
  - 5. Harris Hall: work under way for completion by opening;
  - 6. Singleton Hall: design is being modified to fit the budget. It will be out of commission until spring.
  - 7. Acquisitions: sixteen properties have been purchased so far through the Foundation.
- B. **Communications Committee** No report.
- C. **Joint Committee on Student Academic Life**; No report
- D. **Mediation Committee**: No report.
- E. **Personnel Committee** No report.
- F. **University Outreach Committee**: No report.
- G. **Executive Committee of UC**: No report.

#### V. **Report and Recommendations from the Vice Presidents:**

- A. **Vice President for Administration and Finance** (Ms. Cone Reporting- see **Strategic Planning Committee** above):
  - 1. **Facilities Update**: The fire marshal has given clearance for the move into Gandy Hall. Harris Hall will be worked on this summer, and Hunter-McDaniels next summer. The Singleton Hall will be worked on in 14 months. Lockett Hall is officially off line.
  - 2. **Campaign**: It is hoped that all will get involved in the capital campaign. Campus participation needs to be higher.
- B. **Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs**: (No report)
- C. **Vice President for Development** (No report)

#### VI. **Reports and Recommendations from the Governing Bodies:**

- A. **Faculty Senate** (Dr. Nwoke reporting):

Dr. Nwoke reported that it has been an encouraging year with an excellent Faculty Senate Retreat held at Randolph Farm. He provided thanks to the provost for faculty senate budget assistance. Since the last meeting several of the dean's evaluations have been completed, and an acceptable process for releasing the results is being discussed. A University Handbook Committee has been formed to keep it current and report to the Provost. (The official version of the handbook can be found on the VSU website.) An AAUP issue was discussed on treatment of 9-month versus 12-month faculty. President Moore stated that such action is not an option in the Commonwealth because the state dictates that 9-month faculty be paid over 12-months. Discussion was held on the status of the VSU – Ft. Lee campus.

- B. Staff Senate:** No report
- C. SGA:** No report
- D. Graduate Student Council:** No report.

**VI. New Business - None**

**VII. Other Business**

- A. Virginia State University will pay one-half the cost on the purchase of replacement graduation regalia garb that may have been damaged by rain during the 125<sup>th</sup> year ceremony.
- B. SACS report: The on site team had 4 suggestions and 2 recommendations. One outcome is that the library budget will be further subsidized.
- C. The University will look at a 4-day Academic week. Scheduling and cost of energy is forcing other institutions to respond with this decision. This may not apply to VSU since a majority of students reside on campus.
- D. The agreement for VSU students to ride the Petersburg bus for free needs to be reexamined. In addition, does the agreement include faculty?

**VIII. Announcements:**

- A. VSU Promotion – Dr. Brian Nerrie is responsible for a 6000 sq. ft display at the annual state fair. He provided a handout on the 2008 Virginia State Fair (September 26 – October 5) and suggested that it be used as a recruitment tool and as an excellent opportunity to promote the high recognitions received by The University. The admissions office will be contacted to provide input.
- B. David Meadows from Washington, D.C. will start in July as Vice-President of Administration and Finance.
- C. Appreciation: President Moore announced the retirement of Vice-President Cone and praised her for her service to Virginia State University.

**IX. Adjournment:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Nerrie  
Voluntary Scribe