
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 7, 2008
HH-113E 3:00-5:00PM



ATTENDANCE: Dr. Eric Thomas, presiding; Ms. Clementine Cone, Ms. Malika Forbes, Ms. Paula McCapes, Dr. Brian Nerrie, Dr. Colleen Taylor, Dr. Murel Jones and Dr. Robert Turner. **Visitors:** Dr. Carolyn H. Wilson and Dr. John (Randy) Holmes. **Regrets:** President Eddie Moore, Dr. Maxine Sample, Dr. Benita Brown, Ms. Sandra Garner, Dr. Deborah Goodwin, Ms. Chinna Davis-Mapp, Dr. Earl Newby, Dr. James Norman, Dr. Ben Nwoke, Dr. Claire Robinson and Ms. Novella Ruffin.

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** A quorum was not established; therefore, the minutes were not considered for approval.
- II. **Report and Recommendations from the Chair:** No Report. President Moore was not in attendance. Dr. Thomas noted that there would be another UC meeting on the 21st of March. In the absence of a quorum, Dr. Thomas gave an informal report (IV).
- III. **Committee Reports:** No committee heads present expressed a need to give reports.
- IV. **Report and Recommendations from the Vice Presidents:**
 - A. **Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs:**
 1. **SACS Accreditation:** Dr. Thomas gave a brief update and review on SACS showing the location of the SACS information on the VSU web. Normally the onsite visit by SACS officials is focused on review of the QEP but, given the number of certification standards for which the university was in noncompliance (31 out of 76) the onsite visit will be more comprehensive. The QEP had undergone some revision but the basic three components of the report remained including: (1) inclusion of writing intensive courses (2) establishment of a writing studio and (3) development of a student writing portfolio beginning in the freshman year. Either electronic or hardcopy portfolios are acceptable. We were reminded of the 22-24th of April site visit. Dr. Thomas reported that a status meeting on SACS was scheduled for Monday.
 2. **Honors Convocation:** Dr. Thomas noted that the event was scheduled for April 7th in Anderson Turner auditorium.
 3. **International Forum:** Dr. Thomas noted that the event was scheduled for April 11th.
 4. **Other Accreditations:** NASAD scheduled visit for the Art and Design department reaffirmation the 30th of March through April 2nd. ABET visit is scheduled for next year for the degrees in Engineering that did not just go through accreditation.
 - B. **Vice President for Administration and Finance (Ms. Cone Reporting):**
 1. **Gandy Hall:** Fire Marshal failed the building for a second time due to a hood in one of the kitchens and card access issues. Plans are in place to remediate these issues for another visit from the Fire Marshall the next week.

2. **Gateway:** Pushed to the end of the semester. Issues occurred with the fire alarm system.
3. **Dining Hall:** Will be finished this fall.
4. **Heating Plant and Singleton:** Although these projects had been funded the funds are currently frozen.
5. **Bond Packages:** There are three bond packages currently under consideration in the General Assembly. Each has money for refurbishment of Hunter McDaniel but vary in funds for the multipurpose building and Lockett hall.
6. **Trinkle Hall:** The building will be ready at the end of the semester. Issues concerning office space allotment were discussed. Handicap accessibility caused the moving of some offices displacing others.
7. **Singleton Hall:** VP Cone feels this building's renovation budget may be at risk.
8. **Hunter McDaniel and Locket Planning:** Money has been approved for the planning phases of these two renovations.
9. **Bridge Work:** VDOT is currently working on the bridge. Work on the parking area around the bridge is also scheduled.
10. **HVAC Work:** Harris Hall was already scheduled for HVAC repairs in the summer. Hunter McDaniel also needs work but was not initially scheduled due to the closing of Singleton Hall and lack of space. However, Dr. Thomas recommended that Ms. Cone look into rescheduling the renovation of Hunter McDaniel HVAC in the summer as Singleton will now be online and the renovation of both buildings at once will be more economical. There will not be a need to remove furniture, just people. Temporary office quarters for summer instructors and chairs as well as classroom relocation were discussed. There will be space in Singleton and perhaps lab accommodations can be made in Owens.
11. **Budget Closeout:** All travel authorizations should already be submitted and encumbrances made for year end budget wrap-up. Deadlines will be enforced – no extensions will be permitted. Dr. Taylor brought up complaints by colleagues concerning faculty summer pay allotted to incorrect accounts.

V. **Reports and Recommendations from the Governing Bodies: Staff Senate Report** was given by Paula H. McCapes. The Staff Senate convened on Thursday, March 6th, to receive a special briefing from the Provost on what the SACS Team intended to accomplish with its visit. The Staff Senate was also briefed by Dr. Freddy Thomas on the Quality Enhancement Plan's (QEP) content

VI. **Other Business:** (Ms. Paula McCapes): Ms McCapes presented a slide show of students attending the February 29th trip to the US State Department for a Black History Month, sponsored by Dean Weldon Hill. The turnout of students was tremendous. VSU students met with several important dignitaries discussing US foreign policy and involvement of African Americans in the Foreign Service. The Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, was unavailable given a seventh floor meeting at the time. Faculty members participating with their student were, Drs. Ceslav Ciobanu, Maxine Sample, Joyce Edwards and Kwadwo Bawuah.

VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Taylor and Paula McCapes for Maxine Sample.