
**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 3, 2009
Harris Hall 113-E
3:00-5:00 P.M.**



ATTENDANCE: Dr. Weldon Hill, presiding; Dr. Ken Bernard, Ms. Cora Brodie, Dr. Benita Brown, Dr. Renia Cobb-Brown, Dr. Nana Derby, Dr. Randy Holmes, Ms. Judy Marchand-Hampton, Mr. David Meadows, Dr. Brian Nerrie, Dr. Maxine Sample, Dr. Michael Shackelford, and Dr. Robert Turner.
Regrets: President Eddie N. Moore, Jr., Dr. Earl Newby, and Dr. Claire Robinson.

- I. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the March 6 meeting were approved.
- II. Report and Recommendations from the Chair:** The President was conducting business off campus.
- III. Committee Reports**
 - A. Strategic Planning Committee** (Dr. Nerrie Reporting): The SPC will meet on April 20.
 - B. Communications Committee** (Dr. Sample reporting): The CC met on March 6 and will meet again on April 23 for a presentation on VSU's new information portal.
 - C. Joint Committee on Student Academic Life** (Dr. Derby reporting): The JCSAL met on April 2. Issues that continue to be of concern are the number of undeclared majors, the process for recording a change of major, campus hazing, and the policy requiring the advisor's presence at meetings/events of the advisor's organization.
 - D. Mediation Committee:** No report
 - E. Personnel Committee** (Dr. Holmes reporting): The committee is addressing the following issues: search committee composition; leave for 10, 11, and 12-month employees and the impact on benefits when faculty have a change in status; and the need to get candidates for open positions processed earlier.
 - F. University Outreach Committee:** No report
 - G. Executive Committee of UC:** No report
- IV. Report and Recommendations from the Vice Presidents:**
 - A. Vice President for Academic Affairs** (Dr. Hill reporting):
 - 1. Budget Reductions:** Dr. Hill spoke again about the \$2.3 million in budget cuts in the Academic Affairs area.
 - 2. Retirement Incentive:** The University has received 19 requests for the early retirement option.
 - 3. Promotion/Tenure:** There are 25 promotion/tenure applications and 4 requests for appeal.
 - B. Vice President for Student Affairs** (Dr. Shackelford reporting): VSU met its targeted enrollment goal for the year. Enrollment is about 5200 students. Fall registration for returning students is ahead of where it was last year. So far 2800 students have registered. The critical issue is the shortage of campus housing. While accommodations are needed for 3300 students, only 2500 have housing. Alternate possibilities include off-campus housing

(perhaps community facilities such as a vacant children's home in Dinwiddie). An enrollment management strategic plan is being worked on.

C. Vice President for Administration and Finance (Mr. Meadows reporting):

1. **Stimulus Funds:** Mr. Meadows encouraged the submission of stimulus grant applications. The deans will be the point persons.
2. **Tuition Increase:** Mr. Meadows is working on how best to proceed with projected tuition increases.
3. **Year End Deadlines:** The University is moving through the procurement process as the end of the fiscal year approaches. Several members acknowledged improvement in the processing of paperwork sent to VA Hall. Improvements are being planned for an efficient interface between eVA and Banner for more accurate account information.
4. **Facilities Update:** Two committees are investigating concerns about campus lighting and protocols for grounds preparation following snow storms.

D. Vice President for Development (Dr. Turner Reporting): Contributions have continued on a downward trend. VSU is now focusing on "relationship maintenance"—staying in touch with current donors. Support from Title III will fund needed staff. The Director of Development position is now unfilled, and there is a need for more development officers. Some budget issues are being addressed through technology. The National Business Council is assisting VSU by screening developers peddling their business to the University.

V. Reports and Recommendations from the Governing Bodies:

A. Faculty Senate (Dr. Nerrie reporting): The Faculty Senate has discussed the plus/minus grading system. Dr. Freddy Thomas presented on the Quality Enhancement Plan. Elections will be held on April 15; on April 8 there will be a "Meet the Candidates" presentation. A faculty assembly is planned for April 22. The FS retreat will be on May 18. The Senate has approved a "Discontinuance of Program Policy" to be included in the Academic Procedures Manual and a resolution for implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on the School of Business.

B. Staff Senate: No report.

C. SGA (Ms. Brodie reporting): SGA elections will be held on April 14. Spring Fling activities have been planned. A "Town Hall" meeting was held on Tuesday, March 31. Housing is one of the pressing concerns of the students. There is a need for more University-approved off-campus housing. The new campus portal has generated interest in an SGA Blog. Dr. Brown suggested that the SGA representative serving on the Academic Environment Committee inform the AEC about future town hall meetings.

D. Graduate Students: No report

VI. New Business: The need for the Staff Senate to meet and elect officers was noted.

VII. Announcements: Ms. Marchand announced that VSU has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant for development of a new campus portal that will enhance how VSU interacts with the community and within its varied units. The grant requires a \$29,000 matching commitment. She also indicated that there will be an updating of the IT Strategic Plan.

VIII. Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Maxine Sample, Secretary