Chair Judy Alford called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM. The agenda was approved as presented.

1. Alternate Transportation

The Office of Transportation provides several services designed to assist commuters. These include carpool programs for both faculty/staff and students, Rideshare Matching, and Bike, Bus, & Walk. Additional information on these programs is available on their web site at [http://facilities.vt.edu/ot/parking.asp?value=alternative](http://facilities.vt.edu/ot/parking.asp?value=alternative). Additionally, university employees and student can ride the BT; and the new Smart Way bus provides economical transportation between the Roanoke and New River valleys. When gas prices climb, interest in alternative transportation opportunity rises. When gas prices fall, the interest and use falls as well. The Hokie Express, the campus circulator, travels around campus and to the Corporate Research Center at 15-minute intervals. While it does not go to the new Inn and Skelton Conference Center, the crosswalks on Perry Street and West Campus Drive have been enhanced to aid pedestrian traffic.

Any expansion of the Blacksburg Transit System into neighboring counties will have to have the support of and be initiated by these localities. If employees are interested in seeing the service expanded, they should contact their elected officials to encourage participation. While there may be grants available to help with start-up costs, there must be enough revenue to sustain the service once the grants end.

Improvements are being made to encourage biking on campus, including improving current bike lane and adding new ones, as well as installing new and better bike racks. A bicycle education program is being planned. Improvements are being made to the path to the Cranwell Center including call boxes and additional lighting.

The campus master plan will be delivered to the Board of Visitors at the November meeting and voted on in March. Some of the long-term plans include creating a transportation center on Perry Street to help alleviate traffic problems on the Drillfield, the inevitable use of parking lots to build structures, and parking garages. Since the
Commonwealth does not provide funds to build parking structures, these will have to be built using university funding. Parking fees will have to increase substantially to fund the structures. The challenge will be to provide choices, which could include such options as tiered or zone parking.

Virginia Tech has been recognized as one of the “Best Workplaces for Commuters,” an award given by the US Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. The award recognizes innovative solutions to commuting challenges faced by employers and employees.

2. Reports:
   - Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Sue Ellen Crocker
     The commission set up a task force to study campus climate and diversity. The commission also heard a presentation from a group representing lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered students. Many of the students have been the target of hate crimes and vandalism.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 10, at 3:30 PM in 325 Burruss. There is no speaker confirmed at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.