Present: Judy Alford, Jean Brickey, Catherine Caldwell, Lay Nam Chang, Sue Ellen Crocker, Emily Mashack, Fred Piercy, Becky Sайлорs, Diane Reaver, Wyatt Sasser, Linda Woodard

Absent: Alicia Cohen, Carolyne Dudding, Walter Hartman, Cathy Hill, Eric Johnson, Ken Miller, Shelly Nickols-Richardson

Guest: Dixon Hanna, Associate Provost for Academic Planning, Resources & Space

Chair Judy Alford called meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The agenda was approved with revisions.

1. Speaker – Dixon Hanna

The university is looking for ways to increase its space for research. The CRC now has three new buildings underway, and a fourth will be started soon. Available space at the CRC for new buildings is limited. The original track of land as zoned for the CRC has but one or two parcels left for development. The university is now leasing the old VBI facility, RB XV, as swing space for research groups who have no space on campus. However, some research projects have very special requirements because of special or sensitive equipment. The university is using indirect cost recovery to pay for leased space for research.

The state approved general obligation bonds for campus buildings, but the expenditure of the money has been spread over six years. Inflation in construction costs over the years has required significant adjustments to be made. Additional laboratory space for life sciences is currently being built. Life Sciences I behind Litton-Reaves is scheduled to be opened this fall. The new ICTAS building on Turner Street is scheduled to be completed in March 2008. Other lab space needing renovation is Derring, Davidson, and Randolph.

The General Obligation Bond (GOB) program also includes a series of renovation projects. Currently part of Burruss is being renovated for several departments in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. A second renovation project that will soon go out on bid is Henderson, currently occupied by several groups, Theatre Arts, Music, and Art and Art History. Other buildings scheduled for renovation or additions include Agnew, Cowgill, McComas, and Litton-Reaves. Price and Sandy are also under consideration in the capital planning process for major renovations. Renovations to older buildings can be especially problematic. The cost to bring these older buildings up to current codes can be very expensive, and often result in less desirable space. Classroom renovation was also included in the GOB program. Classrooms must be renovated before new instructional technology can be added. The first phase of eight
classrooms scattered across campus has just been completed. An additional 3000 seats are needed to allow more flexibility in class scheduling and usage.

2. Updates

- Resolution 2006-07B to Add the Staff Senate President as a Non-Voting Member of University Council
  
The resolution has had its first reading at University Council; the second reading will be at the meeting on February 5. It will then go to the president and the Board of Visitors.

- Update for President and Provost
  
  Judy Alford and other commission chairs met with the president and provost to update them on this year’s goals. Both were pleased with the commission’s progress.

- Discussion of Staff Leadership Award (Linda Woodard)
  
  A small working group has begun to outline the components of the proposed university staff leadership award. It will be co-sponsored by the commission and Human Resources. It will focus specifically on leadership, which would be broadly defined and not limited to participation in the university’s governance system. The group proposes that: the award be given annually; nominations may be made by any member of the university community and self-nominations will be accepted; two letters of endorsement will be required, but no more than three will be accepted; the award will consist of a monetary award and a plaque or other non-monetary award. There was discussion on whether the department head of the individuals nominated should be required to provide one of the letters of support. It was decided that a letter would not be required, but the department head should sign the nomination form. It was felt that the department should at least be aware of the nomination of an employee in the department. The award presentation will be included as part of the McComas Leadership Seminar held annually in May. Funding for the award has not yet been confirmed. The group will write up the award proposal and present it to the commission at a later meeting this spring. It is hoped to present the first award in May of 2008.

- Staff Employee of the Week
  
  All award nominees will be featured by the end of February. Beginning after spring break, the governance members will be featured until the end of the semester. This will include Staff Senate officers as well as the various staff association officers.

3. Reports:

- Benefits Committee – Wyatt Sasser
  
  The main topic discussed at last week’s meeting was short term disability for research faculty. These faculty members earn 10 hours of sick leave per month and are not eligible for VSDP unless they are in VRS. The intent is to bridge the gap
between the onset of a significant sickness or disability and the six months wait before long term disability begins.

- **CEOD – Sue Ellen Crocker**
  
  CEOD received a document drafted by the Faculty Senate’s Ethics Committee. A proposed draft describes the role of the Faculty Ethics Committee relating to consideration of faculty behaviors alleged to be in violation of the Principles of Community. Of concern to CSPA was the inclusion of a statement regarding the Staff Senate’s role in addressing issues of behavior regarding individual staff members. The university has policies and procedures for dealing with staff members, and therefore the Senate did not support including reference to staff in the Faculty Senate proposal. The Staff Senate, however, could provide an educational component for staff. Sue Ellen will provide updates as the document is revised.

- **Staff Senate – Jean Brickey**
  
  In some previous years, the McComas Leadership Seminar has invited representatives from one or more other universities to participate in the seminar. Staff members from ten Virginia universities will be invited to participate in the McComas Leadership Seminar this spring.

  An invitation will be sent to all salaried staff members regarding the Employee Advisory Committee to be formed as part of the restructuring process. Interested individuals will be asked apply, and 20 individuals will be selected by a working committee of the Staff Senate. It is hoped to have a diverse group that will cover all aspects of the university.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22. The speaker will be Tom Gabbard from Athletics. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.