COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY SUPPORT
MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2008
Burruss Hall, Room 325

PRESENT:
Members: Jan Helge Bøhn, Chair; Mary Finn; Bradley Scott; Pat Rodgers and Judy Lilly (for Erv Blythe); Bryan Mihalik; Guy Sims; Sue Ellen Crocker; Scott Hurst; Angela Hayes (for Betsy Flanagan); Sherwood Wilson; Tom Tillar; Christine Kastan (via phone).

Also present: Vickie Chiocca (Administrative Assistant)

Jan Helge Bøhn called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

AGENDA:
The meeting agenda was unanimously approved by the Commission.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:
The Minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting were approved by the Commission.

REPORTS:
Report from the Transportation and Parking Committee. Mary Finn updated the Commission on the TPC, reporting that the committee met yesterday; and completed and approved revisions to the Bicycle and Personal Transportation Device policy. The new policy will allow students to ride bicycles on sidewalks. A question was asked about the “chain of command” for policy approval; if it needed to go through the university governance system. Since it is an administrative policy, it will go to the Vice President for Administrative Services for signature approval. The commission members then reviewed the minutes of the January TPC meeting. Sue Ellen Crocker gave a short update of the January TPC meeting regarding the revisions to the Bicycle policy. One revision clarified that earphones can cover one ear, but not both.

Report from the Building Committee. Scott Hurst updated the commission on the November meeting of the building committee. There was a review of the charge to the committee. It was noted that capital project subcommittees remain active throughout the development of projects and that the building committee will likely meet quarterly. The BC also reviewed the status of capital projects and the new capital project process. At a future meeting there will be a briefing regarding the capital budgeting process and the status of project requests. The BC will meet again in April. A question was asked regarding changes taking place since November. Subsequent to state legislation there may be four or five new capital projects. The Campus Master Plan is moving forward. Discussion followed regarding inadequate recreation space for faculty and staff and a need for a study for future use as that is not part of the Master Plan. Sherwood Wilson reported that a presentation on this was brought to the Board of Visitors and there is an awareness that this needs to be addressed. Guy Sims stated that he
will bring up the matter of opening up McComas Hall for faculty and staff use in the summer months. A question was raised about future plans for the Power Plant since steam has been lost. Scott Hurst reported that major improvements to the distribution system are underway.

OLD BUSINESS:

**Smoking restriction survey.** Sue Ellen Crocker sent the “Smoking On-Campus” survey to Susan Walton with the Center for Survey Research but has not received a reply. A question was asked, “Why are we asking question #3 [Do you smoke]?” This is asked to get percentages. A suggestion was made to move it to the end. Jan Helge Bøhn said it fits with the first question on demographics. The question was asked if we have covered all the complaints and comments, e.g., smoking structure. Smoking structures are prohibited since they are a building. Another question was asked regarding smoking debris. Dispensers would be moved further away if there was a consensus to move the boundary for these (referenced in question #5). The second-hand smoke issue was mentioned—since we have no data collection of how big a problem; with percentage of smoking we can get pretty close; it would be a subjective question. For instance, “Do you feel it impacts your ability to perform?” We do have data on how it effects your health. It was suggested to link to the study on the “Impact of Smoking and Second Hand Smoke” that Martin Daniel provided in a previous meeting. A link to the smoking policy will also be provided. Two edits were made—one in question #4 to replace the word “of” with “to” [to read, “Would you be opposed to…”]; and in question #5, change the last item, “no support” to read, “no boundaries.” Sue Ellen will make the revisions and share the survey with Larry Hincker, University Relations. Jan Helge Bøhn made a motion to send the survey forward with the amendments: moving question #3 to #2 and making the two edits. The motion was seconded and then approved unanimously.

**Review of Energy and Sustainability membership composition.** Brian Mihalik reported on university-wide committee composition and distributed a hand-out on “Select Committee Composition by %.” He reported that the committee composition is heavily waited on administration and underrepresented on faculty. He would like to see more equal representation, since committees are faculty governance and should be weighted to faculty. The report included ex-officio members in the counts. He raised the question of whether we should add more faculty. A discussion followed on the make-up of the Environmental Coalition. The coalition is represented by students from various environmental groups. Guy Sims said he will look into the make-up of the coalition and report back to the Commission. It was brought up that there are many student groups that are not a part of the Coalition.

A question was asked about a Town of Blacksburg representative on the committee. There are none on any other commissions or committees. However, they do have a liaison. Sherwood Wilson said that administration meets regularly with the Town and includes them in decisions and information.

Sue Ellen Crocker pointed out that one of the student reps on the Environmental Coalition was responsible for starting the effort to form the Energy and Sustainability Committee.
Following further discussion it was decided that the commission needs further information before recommending changes to the committee make-up.

Computing and Communications Resources proposed membership composition. Jan Helge Bøhn summarized the membership proposed by Erv Blythe for reconstituting the computing and communications resources committee. He noted that staff is underrepresented and asked how the proposed structure fits in with the university governance structure. According to the university governance he can nominate nine people for the committee. Jan Helge Bøhn pointed out that the proposed composition is much larger than the governance membership; he could follow the governance structure and still organize subcommittees. Is this current structure sufficient or does he want to put this aside and create something totally new? Several members voiced support of the governance membership language and the need to follow the governance system. A question was asked how members are elected. Faculty members are elected by organizations at each college; they ask for nominations and then vote.

Judy Lilly reported that she will take this issue to Erv Blythe: that he has a choice to fill the membership with the existing structure or attempt to make a change to this structure to bring before the University Council and governance.

Brian Mihalik made a request for Old Business for the next meeting—to add language to add three AP faculty members to the committee membership.

New Business:
Class rosters with Hokie Passport pictures. Judy Lilly reported that this was in process and she would report back to the group next time.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn made and seconded at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Chiocca, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Administrative Services