PRESENT:
Members Present: Jan Helge Bøhn, Chair; Brian Mihalik, Hugh Latimer (for Scott Hurst) Guy Sims (for Zenobia Hikes); Sue Ellen Crocker; Mike Coleman; Bradley Scott; Vikram Narayan; Mary Finn; Tom Tiller; Angela Hayes (for Betsy Flanagan); Martin Daniel (for Sharron Quisenberry)

Guests: Denny Cochrane

Recorder: Vickie Chiocca, Administrative Assistant

Jan Helge Bøhn called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. He asked members to note future meetings as reflected on the agenda. There was then unanimous approval of agenda; followed by unanimous approval of February meeting minutes.

REPORTS:
Transportation and Parking Committee (TPC).
Mary Finn summarized points from the TPC meetings.
- Alternate Transportation – concluded Smartway bus program is working fine.
- Parking garage – will increase parking permit fees to $300-$500/yr. in the next 5-7 years to fund and pay for parking improvements.
- Discussion followed regarding the funding for the deck and parking fees. Concerns were raised regarding student versus staff fees for parking and some staff not being able to afford parking passes. M. Finn noted a review of permit fees at peer institutions was done; however, many of these are in urban areas, unlike VT. Several voiced concerns that fee seems excessive for this area, essentially creating a pay cut for staff. Vikram Narayan would like to have other means of alternate transportation since the Blacksburg Transit buses are often full.
- TP minutes (Feb. and March) were noted and accepted by the commission.

Energy & Sustainability Committee (ESC) - Review minutes.
Denny Cochrane provided background information on the formation and membership of the new committee.
- They have had two meetings thus far (January and February) since established.
- There will be a resolution to make D. Cochrane an ex officio member that will be brought up for the next commission meeting.
- Reviewing campus energy & water policy 5505- have put together a subcommittee that will start this coming Monday.
- Sherwood Wilson wants the ESC to take a comprehensive look at energy conservation. They will start process next fall – looking at financial, technical, and behavioral aspects.
- They have a request to provide an annual report to the BOV this March –so he will provide copies to the commission.
- Three positions for the paper recycling are up and running—they got funding from the office of the former EVP (J. Hyatt). There is a recycling truck on campus. They have met with the Deans and have 7 colleges up and running; have just met with one more, the last one; so paper & recycling program is up and running.
- Energy & sustainability week won the governor’s environmental excellence award due to efforts of town and those at VT.
• Chair J.H. Bøhn asked if any other questions and comments: Guy Sims noted the Environmental Coalition is a registered student group; they are a stand alone. D. Cochrane noted they have embraced several other groups. They are not an umbrella group. No further comments.
• The commission noted and accepted the ESC minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:
Smoking restriction survey.
• Sue Ellen Crocker made a couple of changes to the survey. She sent it to Susan Walton and Larry Hincker for review and comment. The links for the University Policy on Smoking and the link on second hand smoke have been added and are live links within the survey.
• S. Walton suggested for the question on boundaries where we have distances in feet, that it read “no set boundaries”; instead of “no boundaries”. She thought it was less confusing. Otherwise, S. Walton said it looked fine.
• L. Hincker’s office strongly recommended that we please clear through legal; since we are a public university.
• Next Step: waiting on Legal counsel to see if a problem-if not, S.E. Crocker will proceed with the survey.
• Brian Mihalik asked if the 4th question should be read, “Would you be supportive (instead of “opposed”) to the university going to a smoke free campus?” since it ties in better with the last question.
• So legal needs to look at it; J.H. Bøhn said it is a prudent thing to do and really is not going to be a big issue.
• Martin Daniel suggested for the introduction–instead of gain “consensus”, that it read something like gain “information”. J.H. Bøhn suggested “insight”.
• It was also recommended that we clarify the title, “Smoking On-Campus” since it is not clear if we mean the buildings or campus grounds. It was noted that smoking in buildings is a moot point since that is already prohibited.
• B. Mihalik asked if 5-feet increments are an issue?
• Mike Coleman stated that distance is a big issue to both smokers and non-smokers and in terms of enforcement.
• S.E. Crocker can put in the title “smoke-free” campus.
• M. Coleman noted the location of the ash urns are a big issue for compliance.
• Question was asked if we need to vote on this. Since we voted last time and it will go through legal office, then it is okay to initiate the survey. S.E. Crocker will update and send to legal (as long as there are no substantive changes).

Review of Energy and Sustainability Committee membership composition-adding AP faculty.
• J.H. Bøhn noted two issues for discussion relating to the ESC. They rushed through last year creating this committee with the agreement to come back this year and look at the membership. The two items are 1. the # of faculty membership and 2. student representation, e.g., the Environmental Coalition representatives—should they be nominated by GSA and SGA instead of being preallocated to this or other particular groups.
• B. Mihalik said in the last meeting Sherwood Wilson correctly pointed out that I had included ex officio’s in the committee composition percentages, so he reviewed again and adjusted. The ESC is the only committee that has a preponderance of administration. The Building committee is the 2nd highest. First recommendation is related to preponderance of administration. He doesn't understand why this committee has 41% administration. Second recommendation is regarding the committee chair, the language should say, “President will appoint annually from members of committee.” There is no situation except this one that says, the “President will appoint annually” period. G. Sims looked at the Environmental
Coalition and a web search showed them as an umbrella; then he noticed it went to a new web site that wasn’t an umbrella. S.E. Crocker thinks they originally tried to be an umbrella organization. B. Mihalik’s next recommendation is four students total and let the student organizations select; then they could pick who they want. Concern was expressed that the Environmental Coalition is not what they thought and they don’t want representation to be exclusive.

- J.H. Bøhn then proposed three amendments with proposal to process one at a time, to be effective in Fall 2008:

1. Regarding the Environmental Coalition representation - Proposal made to redistribute to total of two members by GSA and two by SGA. The motion for vote was made and seconded.

   **MOTION:** A vote that everyone in favor to amend ESC membership so the GSA would nominate two representatives and the SGA would nominate two representatives. Motion approved unanimously

2. Regarding the Chair appointment to change the wording at the top. B. Mihalik read examples of Chair appointments, “Chair will be elected annually from among voting members of the committee.” (According to committee bylaws, chair can’t be ex officio; the commission goes by the university governance bylaws.)

   **MOTION:** Chair will be annually appointed from among members of the committee. Motion approved unanimously.

3. **MOTION:** Reduce the membership from facilities down to two. (It was noted that D. Cochrane will become ex officio). Motion approved unanimously.

   J. H. Bøhn in favor to move to send to University Council for a formal resolution. **FINAL MOTION:** Waive 2nd reading, vote on formal resolution electronically and send to University Council. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

**Future Meetings** are April 17 and May 15 at 2:00 pm, 325 Burruss Hall.

**Adjourned** at 3:03 pm.

**ADDENDUM:** Electronic Vote of Formal Resolution for Change in Membership of the Energy and Sustainability Committee (Resolution 2007-2008B) was completed on April 10, 2008. Eleven members voted and approved unanimously. The resolution was submitted to the University Council for vote at their next meeting on April 21, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Chiocca