Minutes of the December 1, 1998 Meeting

Lyons Dental Building Student Lounge


Elected Senators Absent: Barsanti, Boyle, Burns, Canavos, Cook-Tench, Crowe, Elliott (sub Corey), Forsyth, Fulcher, Gilson, Grant, Hague, Jolles, Lenhardt, Liberti, Ready, Stastny.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Terry Ogge at 4:00 pm. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as posted on the web and distributed at the meeting.

2. John Guthmiller, Chair of the Legislative Relations Committee introduced Franklin P. Hall, who represents Richmond in the House of Delegates. Delegate Hall spoke candidly about the upcoming session of the legislature and about prospects for support for higher education by the General Assembly and the general public. He pointed out that the calls for accountability on the part of institutions which we have heard recently will continue to get louder, even as the universities successfully negotiate for greater autonomy in budgetary matters.

Delegate Hall then fielded many questions from senators, and concluded by urging faculty to be involved with the committee process as bills are drafted. He also noted that the university faculty must continue to be concerned with how their work, including scholarly activity and service, is perceived by the public at large.

3. Wes Poynor introduced Paul Timmreck, Vice President for Finance and Administration. He began by distributing "Integrated Planning and Budgeting and the Use of a Base Budgeting Review Process at VCU." This paper
describes the 5-year budget review that is being carried out by his office, and the role that it will play in planning for the next biennium (2000-2002) and beyond. He emphasized the openness of this process, and the fact that it is being applied to every activity and division within the University. The Board of Visitors is supportive of and interested in this work, which is beginning to provide documentation of the affordability of educational programs. Timmreck cited as an example the finding that instructional spending per FTE student actually declined by 1.5% from 1989 to 1998, when adjusted for inflation. He agreed with Delegate Hall's assessment that if the state does agree to decentralize more of the authority for decision making in higher education, it will also demand greater accountability.

Questions from senators dealt with the issue of developing measure of the quality of programs and their educational products, which has not yet been addressed.

4. **Announcements**
   1. **Linda Harber**, Director of Human Resources, will discuss the state's new Disability Plan at the February meeting. Faculty in the Virginia Retirement Plan will have until March 31 to decide whether to switch to the new plan.
   2. The early retirement plan has been divided into two distinct components. Only one requires state approval, and it was the state's idea to separate the proposals. The [Faculty Senate home page](#) now has links to the latest draft of the proposals, which we hope will be approved by the Board of Visitors at its February meeting. The early retirement proposal draft, as a result of discussions with Deans and other concerned parties, now specifies an incentive of 100% of the average salary of those eligible for the program.
   3. The latest draft of the [Computer Ethics Policy](#) is available online, and faculty input will be welcomed by the committee.
   4. Oggel, Sue Brilliant, Mike Spinelli and Bob Andrews met with Eddie Blanks in October about the forced conversion of 18-pay faculty to 24 pays. The Executive Committee intends to draft a statement at its next meeting and will ask for Senate support by email.
   5. **Supplementary announcements** will be posted on the Senate website and/or distributed by email.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.