

**COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY SUPPORT
MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2010
Burruss Hall, Room 325**

PRESENT:

Members: Leslie O'Brien, Chair, Mike Martin, Bradley Scott, William C. Dougherty (for Erv Blythe), Daniel Wubah, Lora Cavuoto, Suzannah Grubb, Mike Coleman, Michael Evans, Tom Tillar, Sherwood Wilson, Jim Tokuhisa, Angela Hayes (for Betsy Flanagan),

ABSENT: Jack Davis, Guy Sims, Joyce Rothschild, Sarah Castle, Sean Arthur, Henry Quesada Pineda

Guests: Heidi McCoy

Recorder: Vickie Chiocca

1. Approval of agenda

Leslie O'Brien called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Agenda was approved without changes, and meeting began with round-table introductions.

2. Announcement of approval of April 15, 2010 minutes

These minutes were approved electronically.

3. Old Business

There was a first reading of the Transportation and Parking Resolution at the last meeting. Since there were questions last time the Commission postponed action to bring back at this first meeting of the academic year. One issue had to do with an MOU agreement between Parking Services and Athletics waiting to be reviewed. This will occur as part of normal budget discussions for Transportation department and will be an agenda item for the fall with the Budget office. Commissions can only make recommendations and not set policy on parking fees; so suggestion was made to send back to T& P committee for revision. Recommendations should ask that many factors affecting parking fees be addressed, and not focus on just one aspect.

The consensus was to send back to the T&P committee for more general recommendations. L. O'Brien will attend the first T&P meeting and report back to the Commission. She announced that several Commissions will be discussing transportation and parking issues this year.

Reports from Committee Chairs/Representatives

Committee Briefings

Building Committee (*met April 29, 2010*)

Energy and Sustainability Committee (*met April 26, 2010*)

Mike Coleman chairs both committees and asked if there were any questions regarding the committee minutes that were provided to the Commission for review. A member asked about the VT capital project cost analysis and if anything similar

has been done in regard to maintenance & renovation. Mike Coleman said not yet but doing operation & maintenance now unofficially with implementation of new enterprise system that enable them to start benchmarking categories that weren't available in the old system. They went live August 3, so one year to get up and running. They are starting to benchmark performance rates, moving to traditional property management approach.

4. New Business

Future of the Commission on University Support

H. McCoy presented a proposal to eliminate the Commission on University Support and began with a brief history. H. McCoy staffed the Commission in a previous role, and has kept up with Council and Commissions as a member of the President's staff. In her new role as Chief of Staff for VP for Administrative Services, she reviewed the minutes of the Commission from the past few years. She is proposing that the Commission go dormant or be removed from the University Governance system because of lack of agenda items, and to improve university efficiency.

The proposal recommends that the four committees reporting through CUS (E&G, Building, T&P, and Computing) become Operational Committees reporting to their administrative units as specified in Article X of the University Council Constitution. Three of these committees would report to S. Wilson. The proposal recommends disbanding the Computing and Communications Resource Committee. Discussion followed about the Commission's decision last year to ask the five standing IT advisory committees share information with the Commission and through governance, rather than disband or reinstate that committee. A member asked if 5 advisory committees would not have to report to governance if this Commission were abolished.

It was noted that the Commission was inactive for several years (2001-2005) and became active again five or six years ago. Concern was raised on whether the intent of the Commission was to have independence from the VP structure so that the information obtained goes to the Council outside of the purview of the VP, since this proposal recommends changing that and have it route through the VP areas.

L. O'Brien stated that the CUS charge is very broad, which has perhaps made it difficult to define a direction. If the main concern is lack of agenda items and using our time more effectively, are there alternatives to consider other than disbanding, e.g., change in membership, frequency of meetings, narrowing of the charge? One concern is communication, what would be the avenue to learn about these support areas, or making policy without the Commission? A member suggested that other Commissions could also deal with some of these items. If minutes are posted that is how they could get into University Council. S. Wilson said he would be open to meeting quarterly when asked to have an open forum with University members or other commissions when asked.

Those operational committees would still exist with same make-up and continue to do there work with representation throughout the University, including students, but minutes would be posted online on University Council and governance. The Smoking policy is a good example of a policy that could have gone through the Commission on Staff Affairs and Policies.

L. O'Brien said the discussion so far has focused on four committees that report to the Commission, but the Commission charge is broader than that and includes accounting, budgeting, administration, development, institutional research, etc. What would be the avenue for communicating information about these areas or passing policies through governance if CUS was disbanded?

Further discussion followed regarding future anticipated areas that may need to be addressed, including building infrastructure, parking, energy and sustainability, and safety & security. In terms of safety and security, the University is taking a leadership role in that area and that will continue to evolve. They will be information items that come from that and not issues for debate. An example is the camera policy. This was debated heavily at Academic Council. This came about since there were a number of CCTV cameras unregulated and no policy. This was vetted through administration since an administrative policy versus governance. It could have come through this Commission but wasn't needed since it is administrative. Every college had opportunity for input in this.

Much of this information is presented to BOV, such as energy and sustainability and building, so if someone wants to get involved there are various avenues available for people that want to be informed.

T. Tillar made a recommendation to lift up these committees as opportunities for students, faculties, and staff to participate. He was on the earlier Commission and it had the same issue and struggled for agenda items. This Commission is more informational. There are plenty of commissions and committees for people to become involved in.

W. Dougherty said they are planning to expand the IT advisory group, so there will be more opportunities available there.

A. Hayes asked what issues other than smoking have come out of this Commission and gone forward to University Council. The Climate Action Commitment (CAC) would have come through governance even without the Commission on University Support. How many items have we had to move forward?

L. O'Brien asked the members about the next steps. A resolution would have to go through two readings here before it gets on the University Council agenda

The consensus of the Commission was to have everyone go back to their constituencies regarding the proposal. Heidi McCoy will draft two versions of the resolution for the next meeting for discussion: one to eliminate and one to disband or suspend.

Chair Elect – L. O'Brien asked for nominations for Chair-Elect. The Commission members agreed to table the election of the Chair-Elect until next meeting secondary to proposal to disband the Commission. Motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Election of representative to Transportation and Parking committee- L. O'Brien asked for nominations for someone to represent the T&P committee. A member asked about the meeting schedule. L. O'Brien will attend the October 21st meeting and check on meeting schedule.

5. Acceptance of Committee Minutes

Building Committee Minutes (*March 25, April 29, 2010*)

Energy and Sustainability Committee (*March 29, April 26, 2010*)

6. Next meeting date – will take place October 21st.

Adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Chiocca