

**COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY SUPPORT  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 20, 2011  
President's Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall**

**MEMBERS**

**Members Present:** Robert Broadwater, Mike Coleman, Jack Davis, William Dougherty (for Erv Blythe), Angela Hayes (for Betsy Flanagan), Kelsey Heiter, Ed Lener, Achla Marathe, Ryan Smith, Sue Teel, Jim Tokuhisa (Chair), Tom Tillar, Sherwood Wilson, Teresa Wright (for Daniel Wubah)

**Members Absent:** Kathy Hosig (with notice), Henry Quesada Pineda (with notice), Guy Sims, Tom Wortalik

**Recorder:** Kayla Smith

**Guests:** Gary Long, Heidi McCoy

**1. Approval of agenda**

Dr. Tokuhisa called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and the meeting began with round-table introductions. The agenda was approved with the change of moving item 6c, *Proposed Multimodal Transit Facility near Derring Hall*, to follow item 3, *Special Presentation on the Strategic Plan (2012-18) Process*.

**2. Announcement of approval of April 21, 2011 minutes**

These minutes were approved electronically.

**3. Special Presentation on the Strategic Plan (2012-18) Process**

Dr. Paul Knox provided the Commission with an update on the university's strategic planning process. Initial concept draft materials from the taskforce are available for university community members to review and provide feedback via the long range planning website: [www.longrangeplan.vt.edu](http://www.longrangeplan.vt.edu). Dr. Knox stressed that these materials are not a first draft of the strategic plan, but rather concepts for inclusion in the plan that will be drafted and presented to the community for review later in the academic year.

**6c. Proposed Multimodal Transit Facility near Derring Hall**

Gary Long, representing the College of Science and Dean Lay Nam Chang, addressed the Commission with the College's concerns regarding the proposed Multimodal Transit Facility (MMTF) near Derring Hall. The faculty and staff of the College are concerned about: 1) the potential impact of bus fumes and other particulate on sensitive, high-value equipment in Derring and Hahn Halls, and 2) noise and pedestrian traffic through the main hallways in Derring Hall. These are primary buildings for undergraduate science lecture and lab

instruction as well as critical research in some fields (including Biology, Chemistry, Geoscience, and Physics).

Mr. Long also reported that the Commission on Research had voted unanimously to present a formal expression of concern to University Council regarding the impact of the MMTF.

Dr. Wilson provided additional background on the MMTF, which is a project in conjunction with the Town of Blacksburg. The Federal Department of Transportation conducted the traffic and transit studies which led to a determination of two possible locations: 1) the parking lot commonly known as the "Derring Lot," which is the currently proposed location, and 2) the parking lot commonly known as the "B Lot," which is across Perry Street from the currently proposed location. Derring Lot was ultimately selected based on the ability to minimize the space required to provide the bus services (due to required turning radius, etc.), maximize building in-fill, and centralize services for students (key Master Plan goals).

Dr. Wilson also responded to the concerns regarding College of Science input into the process. He has met with Dean Chang and explained to the Commission that the funding required for the environmental impact study (a requirement of the Board of Visitor's approval of the MMTF) will come from a grant and had to be secured before the assessment and in-depth project design could occur. Virginia Tech and Town of Blacksburg staff members have been informed to coordinate meetings with the College representatives to discuss the concerns. The consultant has also been asked to investigate alternative pedestrian routes to address the potential increase in foot traffic through the main hallways in Derring Hall.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a. Nomination for a representative to the Transportation and Parking Committee**

Dr. Tokuhisa indicated that Ms. Marathe volunteered to represent the Commission on the Transportation and Parking Committee. Dr. Wilson moved that the Commission appoint Ms. Marathe as the Commission representative to the Transportation and Parking Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Teel and passed unanimously.

#### **5. Reports from Committee Chairs/Representatives**

##### **a. Building Committee**

The Building Committee met on October 6, 2011 and the main item of discussion was the 6-year capital project approval process and recently approved 6-year capital project plan.

##### **b. Energy and Sustainability Committee**

The Energy and Sustainability met on September 26, 2011. Main topics of discussion included Sustainability Week, the Green RFP process, and reports of on-going projects.

**c. Transportation and Parking Committee**

The Transportation and Parking Committee met September 14, 2011. There was no report available at the time of the Commission meeting.

**6. New Business**

Both items remaining under new business (a. *Charge of the Commission and Committees* and b. *Discussion of Commission projects*) were tabled for the next meeting in the interest of time.

**7. Acceptance of Committee Minutes**

Mr. Coleman moved that the Commission accept the Building Committee minutes from March 31, 2011 and April 28, 2011 as well as the Energy and Sustainability Committee minutes from March 21, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

**8. Next meeting date**

November 17, 2011

**Adjourned** at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Smith