

Remarks made during the BOV Meeting

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Thank you Mr. Rector, members of the Board of Visitors, Ladies and Gentlemen

Only two short months have gone by since the last board meeting. In one Faculty Senate meeting Provost Mark McNamee shared with the Senate information about the implementation of the budget cuts and the challenges that the University faces. Mr. Dwight Shelton also presented an update on the University budget and the State's Budget. In another meeting Dr. Bob Jones presented the University's SACS Quality Enhancement Plan. Then Dr. John Randolph presented the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment & Sustainability Plan and the Resolution on the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment, which was prepared by a special subcommittee of the Energy & Sustainability Committee in response to a charge made to them by President Steger. This resolution will come before the Board tomorrow and outlines the University's commitment to address climate changes and environmental sustainability, save on energy consumption and become a 'greener' University by reducing carbon emissions. Some of the proposed actions will not be cost effective in the immediate economic climate, but in Faculty Senate a motion was passed (with two abstentions), through which the Senate supports, in principle, the work and goals of committee and also to commend the committee for the excellent work they have done.

The 2009-2010 Faculty Senate President will be Prof. Gary Long from the Department of Chemistry. Gary received his PhD from North Carolina State University in 1982 and served as a National Science Foundation Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education in 1999. Prof. Mike Ellerbrock was elected as the next Vice President of the Faculty Senate. He is professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and Head of the Center for Economic Education. Prof. Ellerbrock was formerly the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of East Texas Austin and recipient of numerous awards including the University SPORN Award. I believe you will enjoy working with both Gary and Mike next year.

I would like to pause for a moment and mention a few of the items that we have not yet accomplished, but that we hope to:

1. SALARY INCREASES

The University has been striving for several years now to raise compensation to the 60th percentile as compared to our peers, but salaries have essentially remained unchanged over a few cycles especially as a result of the State General Fund Reversions. I hope that that compensation levels will remain a high priority.

2. SPECIAL RESEARCH FACULTY

Special Research is still the only constituent group on campus without any representation in the Shared Governance system and we have not made enough progress to resolve this and provide a vehicle for their participation and representation in University Governance. We shall keep working with the Research Division.

3. FACULTY CLUB

We do not have a Faculty Facility yet, however I am very grateful to report that the Provost and President's Offices have presented us with a pilot initiative to facilitate faculty functions in a space on campus. We shall proceed with this program this coming year and I'd like to thank Dr. McNamee and Dr. Steger for their continued support to make this a success.

4. PARKING AND TRAFFIC

At one of our last meetings Dr. John Jelesko updated the senators on the work of the Parking and Transportation Committee and on the impact of new construction and parking garages. Parking and Traffic is a vexed issue on campus that will most likely receive more and more attention as we proceed into next year.

5. ETHICS

The last item on my list is somewhat close to my heart and concerns ethic. I believe that we can do more to reaffirm our strive to behave ethically and with integrity on campus and as members of the community; and to educate ourselves and other on what it means to be ethical, so that we are not almost ethical or mostly ethical, but always ethical in every aspect of University community. On campus we deal with ethics in Research, ethics in science, ethics in engineering, ethics in medicine, ethics in management, ethics in collegial relationships, ethics in teaching and in every aspect of our daily routines and in doing business with one another. Ethics is important in every leadership role, and a campus like ours is filled with leaders. Faculty are leaders in their respective fields and in the classrooms, administrators are leaders in their Units and Offices, we have leaders who volunteer to run programs and so on, but most importantly, as a campus, we are intimately involved with educating and helping to build the careers of the leaders of tomorrow. As we are growing diversity on campus, it is also our responsibility to educate people from different cultures and backgrounds to understand exactly what we mean with the word ethics. There is really no such thing as business ethics or social ethics – ethics is always a personal issue. I therefore believe that emphasizing our commitment to treat one another ethically and providing that as an explicit a guideline in our pledge, that it will enrich our

community and contribute to the campus climate and the general welfare of the University. Neither the word ethics nor the word integrity appears in our Principles of Community, and perhaps statement underlying ethical behavior should be included in that important writing so that it will apply and awareness be raised to a higher level of visibility to everyone on campus.

Mr. Rector in conclusion I'd like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Board of Visitors this past year. I do believe we have an exemplary model of Shared Governance and it is in a great part due to your strong commitment to all members of the University community. Your support and eagerness to learn what is on the hearts and minds of faculty is most appreciated. On behalf of the faculty, we thank you.

I enjoyed working with Tom, Linsey and Arlene and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Finally, I'd like to thank President Steger and Provost McNamee for their efforts in supporting a healthy climate for Shared Governance and for taking time out of their schedules for regular meetings with Faculty Senate leadership.

It's been an honor to serve, thank you for this opportunity.

That concludes my report.