

Remarks made during the BOV Meeting  
Kerry J. Redican  
President, Faculty Senate of Virginia Tech  
June 4, 2007

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

I mentioned in my first report back in August, that faculty feel they work in a partnership with administration, Board of Visitors, staff, and students. The evidence of how successful this partnership can be was our collective response to the tragic events of April 16<sup>th</sup>. Concurrent with dealing with the shock and dismay of April 16<sup>th</sup>, faculty, students, and administration had to test the strength of the partnership and work closely together in a way that had never been done before in order to complete the semester. It was incredibly difficult and challenging but we did it – we pulled together and made it happen.

Shortly after April 16<sup>th</sup>, a special closed session of the faculty senate was held and a statement of support for administration was approved:

*Statement in Support of President Charles W. Steger and Police Chief Wendell Flinchum*

*We, the members of the Faculty Senate of Virginia Tech offer our full support to President Charles W. Steger as he continues to lead the university through these difficult times. We thank President Charles W. Steger and Chief Wendell Flinchum for their leadership and outstanding dedication to the Virginia Tech community in response to the tragic events of April 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*- The Faculty Senate of Virginia Tech*

In my August, 2006 remarks, I reported that the issues of concern of the 2006-2007 Faculty Senate were continuing efforts to reach the 60<sup>th</sup> salary percentile of our peer institutions and a faculty club. We appreciate the both the administration and BOV making both of those issues high priority on your agendas and we are pleased on the progress we are making.

It has been a very productive year. The 2006-2007 Commission on Faculty Affairs was very active and in consultation with the Faculty Senate was successful in gaining University Council approval for policies on composition of committees for promotion and tenure evaluation; annual and pre-tenure evaluation; part-time appointments for tenure-track and tenured faculty; and career track for instructors and general employment policies for non-tenure track and tenured faculty. We believe that the implementation of these policies will strengthen the academic culture, provide for more opportunities for recruitment and retention and have a positive impact in our diversity efforts.

Since my last report, Faculty Senators also began a dialogue on how to take the Principles of Community to the next level, that is, incorporating them into their work. The first step in this process was to communicate to the university community that faculty are serious about the Principles of Community. The Faculty Senate passed a motion that faculty should be encouraged to include a statement in their syllabus reflecting support for the Principles of Community – a statement similar to the current Honor Code statement in syllabi. It is anticipated that more discussion will take place regarding other ways to demonstrate that faculty support for the Principles of Community.

At our May, 2007 meeting, the 2007-2008 Faculty Senate officers were elected. They are Valerie Hardcastle (President) and Hardus Odendaal (Vice President). Valerie is both a Professor of Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. She has been at Virginia Tech since 1992. Valerie received her Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Berkeley; Master of Arts from University of Houston and Ph.D. from University of California, San Diego.

Hardus Odendaal is an Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Hardus has been at Virginia Tech since 2001 and received his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Ph.D. from Rand Afrikaans.

I am certain you will enjoy working with Valerie and Hardus.

I also want to mention that I have enjoyed working with Jean, Ennis, and Greg and I believe they all did an outstanding job representing their constituencies.

I'd also like to thank President Steger and Provost McNamee for their efforts on supporting a healthy climate for shared governance and for taking time out of their schedules for regular meetings with Faculty Senate leadership.

Finally, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all you on the Board of Visitors this past year. Your friendliness, responsiveness, and willingness not only to hear faculty concerns but to take action is most appreciated. On behalf of the faculty, we thank you.

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