

Minutes of the College Senate Meeting  
January 23, 2004

Parliamentarian Tom Hyder offered a 101 introduction to *Robert's Rules of Order* as drawn up by Major Henry M Robert of the Army Corps of Engineers. Senators were given two handouts for future reference:

- 1) How Main Motions are Handled
- 2) Precedence and Classification of Motions

The Rules have been adopted by the Senate according to the Constitution, but they are only guidelines for procedure and can be adapted and modified to suit our particular purposes and preferences.

Motion: that the minutes of the meeting held December 12, 2003 be approved.

Proposed: Brian Flick

Seconded: Ben Sloan

Result: Passed unopposed.

Report from the Senate sub-committee evaluating membership of standing committees given by Kit Decker. Main points:

- a) *divisional* representation on committees is not necessary, although representation of each *Program*, on C&I for example, should prove a better organizational principle. Territoriality is not a feature of college culture, hence any faculty member can assume at at-large role and represent the faculty as a whole, not simply his/her home division. (Thanks to Kathy Hudson and Cliff Haury for clarification on these points.)
- b) staff/faculty should perhaps serve 2-3 year terms to ensure continuity and pursuit of long-term goals
- c) committees should be built from the ground up, on a zero-sum budget

Jane Kingston reiterated that tighter workgroups or teams, as opposed to large numbers of faculty assigned to a committee, should be more effective.

Patricia Franklin asked how would it be possible for interested individuals to break into a committee run by incumbent veterans. The answer is that membership on a committee could be by open election, making it a more competitive process.

Motion: that the sub-committee write up its proposed recommendations for review by the Senate.

Proposed: Marie Melton

Seconded: Brian Flick

Unanimously passed.

David Lerman noted that concerns raised at our last meeting about grammar courses have been forwarded to C&I.

David Lerman also pointed out that the staff retirement policy is still a work in progress and that so far no other college within the VCCS has supplied any similar document for comparison.

Tracy Cersley noted that several provisions listed for retired staff were not appropriate since they are not available even to currently employed staff. Her recommendation was to remove the items concerning secretarial support, office space, parking, mail facilities and academic regalia.

Motion: that PASS work with the Personnel and Benefits committee to edit the policy in light of this recommendation and return a revised version to the Senate.

Proposed: Brian Flick

Seconded: Linda Crosby

Result: Passed, with one abstention.

## Senate lobbying efforts

The President has requested that the Senate as a body be involved in lobbying the General Assembly in favor of education. David Lerman listed three ways the Senate might choose to be involved in such efforts:

- 1) by following Mary Jane King's letter and attachment that outlines the case for increased community college funding
- 2) by supporting a student-signed petition
- 3) by writing to *The Daily Progress*

Two senators were adamant that they would prefer to express their political views as individual citizens of Virginia and would be opposed to having their names, as senators, added to a statement of a political nature that had been written by someone else. Another senator expressed concern that allowing the administration to determine which political actions to take or causes to support would set a bad precedent. There was general agreement. Additionally, a fourth senator was uncomfortable signing his name to a document he did not write.

Motion: that the Senate request that Mary Jane King's office disseminate information to the college community and to the wider public on how to contact the General Assembly and communicate with their legislators in order to support funding for the college.

Proposed: Marie Melton

Seconded: Lee Fargo

Result: Approved unanimously

Next meeting to be held on February 20, 2004 at 2.30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4.20pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kit Decker

Acting Secretary