

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL ON STAFF AFFAIRS (COSA)
Minutes - March 14, 1995**

The Council on Staff Affairs met in the President's Dining Room in Palms Dining Center on March 14, 1995.

Present: Sandra Denson, Juanita Faircloth, Blake Griffin, Inman Grimsley, Sarah Hardin, Mike Jones, Russ Mast, Chip Moore, Donna Nolan, Humberto Rodriguez, Sue Teel, and Jim Yates

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:16 am.
2. Special Order of the Day: Herchel Blanton, Acting Director of Public Safety, was on hand to answer questions regarding campus parking policies:

STUDENT PATROLLERS: 12 on staff; each is only able to work 19 hours per week. 15 additional patrollers are beginning training this week and will start work Spring Quarter '95. Each patroller is usually assigned a zone for which he/she is responsible and therefore has a pretty good idea of which cars he/she has already ticketed during that shift, etc. This policy helps to avoid being fooled when students who park illegally place a ticket that they received on a different day on the windshield in order to keep Public Safety from giving them another one.

NORTH CAMPUS: There is usually one student patroller specifically assigned to North Campus, especially during the transition period between classes. His/her obvious presence helps prevent illegal parking. With regards to the curb parking on the west side of Thaxton Hall which makes it difficult for vehicles to see well enough to pull out, Blanton promised to check into the situation and perhaps extend the yellow non-parking zone.

FINE ARTS BUILDING LOADING ZONE: Blanton was questioned as to how to reduce conflicts with illegal parking in this loading zone. He suggested that Public Safety would not turn on the lights on the outdoor basketball courts until asked by a VSU student, and this problem would also be somewhat solved as more small outlying parking lots were developed. He also said that this problem usually decreased throughout the quarter as more student patrollers saturate the campus.

Other items of discussion:

1. Need loading zone for Nevins/West Halls so faculty/staff don't have to park illegally when transporting materials to and fro.
2. Handicapped Parking should be separated into spots that are wheelchair accessible and non-wheelchair accessible. Wheelchair accessible spots would be available only to those individuals with mobility disabilities. Other handicapped spots would be available to all disabled individuals.

3. Illegally parked vehicles are removed from campus between 4:00 and 5:30 am.
 4. Areas designated as 24 hour reserved may not be used by unauthorized vehicles at all while free access areas are available to anyone after 5:30pm Monday through Thursday and after 3:00 on Fridays.
 5. Public Safety has ordered 6 additional "car boots" to immobilize cars of repeat offenders or nonpayers.
 6. Blanton would like to see a separate division formed within Public Safety for Parking and Transportation.
3. The Minutes of the meeting of February 7, 1995 were approved unanimously.
 4. Treasurer's Report: January Balance: \$1902.70 February Balance: \$1879.66
 5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Elections: No report.
 - b. Policy: No report.
 - c. Welfare: No report.
 - d. Parking Appeals: The committee met and discussed several appeals. Overall, they as a committee are tough on those who have received tickets for parking in fire lanes and handicapped spaces. They have requested a list of habitual offenders from Public Safety in order to make more informed decisions.
 - e. Employee Recognition: Julie Deaton, at-large member of this committee is leaving the University. We appreciate all of her hard work, dedication, and assistance.
 - f. Bylaws: Committee is currently checking into numbers of representatives from each area in order to advise the Election Committee for the April Election.
 - g. Staff Development: A list of development topics is being submitted to the Trailblazer to solicit input as to topics in which the VSU Staff is interested.
 6. Reports from Chair
 - a. Administrative Council Report: At the last meeting, the proposals and goals of the new Chancellor were discussed. Also, the 6% pay increase for staff should remain intact for July.
 - b. Board Member Resignations: Keith Peterson and Sarah Hardin have both resigned from the COSA Board effective as of the June meeting as both will be leaving the University.
 7. Old Business:
 - a. Parking of University Vehicles on Campus: Bob Bell, Director of Plant Operations sent a response to Chair Mast's letter regarding this problem. He stated that he certainly did not condone the use of University Vehicles to save spaces for personal vehicles and would relay his feelings on this problem to all Plant Operations employees. He also explained that his department was instructed to use parking spaces rather than park on the

grass or sidewalks where they might obstruct pedestrian/handicapped access. Therefore, if a regular space were available they would use it. He did not support the idea of designating spaces specifically for University vehicles as this would decrease the number of regular access spaces. He also reminded the Board that Plant Operations is not the only department with university vehicles and others might need to be notified.

b. State Symposium Representative's Report: Sandra Denson, Keith Peterson, and Sarah Hardin attended the University System of Georgia Staff Conference in Athens, GA on February 24. The Conference had over 300 attendees and topics of discussion included: Conflict Resolution, Employee Rights and Responsibilities, Improving Salaries, Staff Esteem, Consistent, Equitable Policies, Communication, and Diversity in the Workplace. All three felt that it was a valuable workshop and brought back some ideas regarding the direction that VSU's COSA might want to go in the future.

c. Statewide Steering Committee Report: Keith Peterson, VSU's representative to the Statewide Steering Committee reported that the Committee met with Vice Chancellor Arthur Dunning, who is very supportive of forming staff councils at all Georgia institutions as well as a statewide staff council. Discussion revolved around the encouragement of these formations; the future policies regarding tuition remission for staff that will probably be in effect for courses related to a current job; and system-wide policies on evaluation of immediate supervisors by employees. As Keith is leaving the University, he strongly encouraged COSA to appoint another person to sit on the Steering Committee so that VSU is involved in the future of staff policies in the State of Georgia.

8. New Business:

a. Elections: Will take place April 14 - 21. Positions that will be open are as follows: President's Area: 1; Academic Affairs: 1 (2 yr term), Business and Finance Area: 2, Student Affairs Area: 1, EEO 1 (Executive/Administrative/Managerial): 2 (1 full-term, 1-(2) yr term), EEO 4 (Secretary/Clerical): 2, EEO 5 Technical/Para-professional): 1 (2 yr term). Unless otherwise noted, positions are a three-year term. All eligible voters will be sent a ballot before April 14. These ballots may be returned to ballot boxes that will be placed in designated areas. (Information will be on the ballot.) Further details will be in the April 11 minutes. If you do not receive a ballot and think that you should have, contact Elections Chair, Juanita Faircloth, at 2623. In addition, if you wish to find out more about the COSA Board responsibilities, contact Chair Russ Mast at 5674.

b. Staff Use of PE Complex Locker Rooms: The Men's and Women's Faculty Locker Rooms are available for use by all faculty/staff on a first come/first served basis. To check out a locker, you must provide your own lock and inform Herb Reinhard, Athletic Director, which locker you have taken. At this time, the Men's Locker Room is full, but space is available in the Women's.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 11, 8:15 a.m., Palms President's Dining Room. Items for the agenda must be sent to COSA, VSU Box 7050, by Monday, April 3.