

**SEAS Employee Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 2010**

**Present:** Jennifer Mauller (SYS), Rita Kostoff (DO), Amanda Tingle (BME), Peggy Gibson (CE), Laura Troutman (MAE), Kim Doerr (ChE), Wendy Morris (CS).

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson, Jennifer Mauller.

**Old Business:**

No open matters to discuss.

**New Business:**

Governor McDonnell had just released a memo to State employees outlining his recommendations for the State budget (attached). These items were the basis for most of this meeting's discussions. It was suggested that we send a memo to all staff, encouraging everyone to write their legislators expressing their opinions of/opposition to these proposals. We will supply a sample memo and this site: <http://legis.state.va.us/> - click: "Who's My Legislator?"

There was some discussion about this winter's unusually bad weather and how everyone coped with getting to work. The University remained open except for two days. The Facilities staff did a reasonable job of keeping sidewalks/parking lots cleared, although we've had to contend with icy areas and blocked parking spaces. Considering the magnitude of the job, we feel Facilities did as well as could be expected and realize the employees put in a lot of extra effort and time during this period.

Cold buildings were another matter discussed. Mechanical and Thornton in particular have been very cold the past few weeks. Sometimes there's a delay in getting Facilities to respond to a call for service.

The Chemical Engineering students who lost their home and possessions to a fire are doing well and have received some assistance from the University. They still need funds for clothes and household items; contributions may be made at the ChE office.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in the Rodman Room.

Submitted by Rita Kostoff, Secretary

Excerpt from Gov. McDonnell's "Budget Message to State Employees" dated February 17, 2010:

*First, I recommend reversal of the proposal in the introduced budget that would require existing employees to pay a portion of the cost (1 percent in FY 2011 and 2 percent in FY 2012) of their Virginia Retirement System (VRS) retirement. I understand and agree that the current state payment of the employee share which began in 1983 is considered by you as part of your current state salary. I believe that restoring this proposed reduction is absolutely necessary due to your hard work and devotion to duty in these difficult times. In addition, I propose that state employees be given a one-time 3 percent bonus in December 2011.*

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*Second, I also have suggested that significant savings from reduced state contributions to VRS be captured. These savings will be accomplished by fully funding the normal cost of the state employee retirement program, as well as an additional 20 percent of the plans' unfunded liabilities. These proposed changes will not affect your current salary and will not in any way impact your current or future VRS benefits.*

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*In addition, because the state's health insurance program has generated substantial balances over the past few years, I am recommending that the FY 2011 premium increase be reduced and that program balances be used. This will reduce the proposed employee premium increase in FY 2011 and will not result in any additional benefit changes beyond those proposed in the introduced budget.*

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*Finally, to provide the General Assembly with a comprehensive range of savings options, I also noted that unpaid leave for state employees, or furlough days, of up to five days per fiscal year is a possible savings option during the 2010-12 biennium. While this is not easy to recommend, it is consistent with what is being implemented by other states and private industry. However, I would note that I have also asked that flexibility be provided by me to reduce any approved furloughs should the state's revenue situation improve, as I trust it will with our economic development focus.*