

**2006-2007 Annual Report of the Environmental Issues Committee (EIC)
of the Valdosta State University Faculty Senate**

The EIC met as follows:

15 September 2006 – attending: 10 faculty, *ex officio* 3 administrators, 2 student representatives; 4 visitors
20 October 2006 – attending: 8 faculty, *ex officio* 3 administrators, 1 student representative
17 November 2006 (retreat) – attending: 7 faculty, *ex officio* 3 administrators; 1 visitor
09 February 2007– attending: 7 faculty, *ex officio* 3 administrators, 1 student representative; 4 visitors
09 March 2007– attending: 9 faculty, *ex officio* 3 administrators
13 April 2007– attending: 6 faculty, *ex officio* 3 administrators, 1 student representative; 3 visitors
20 April 2007 – attending: 10 faculty, *ex officio* 3 administrators, 1 student representative; 1 visitor

The EIC and University policies relating to it and its subcommittees provide for and actively facilitate proactive communication between administration and Faculty Senate on a variety of issues of vital importance, e.g., those affecting preservation of natural and historical resources, conservation of energy and other resources, prevention of light and other forms of pollution, and recycling of paper and other materials. Through University Policy, procedures are specified that require the administration to consult proactively with and seek advice on these issues from representatives of the faculty serving on the EIC and its subcommittees. To be effective, the process requires judicious and timely action and open communication by the administration in informing the EIC at the earliest stages of formal planning for construction, renovation, or other activities that involve historical and natural resources, energy conservation, outdoor lighting, and recycling. This year the EIC has collaborated with and advised the administration on numerous occasions.

On 01 November 2006 the Campus Beautification and Stewardship Subcommittee (CBSS) (Dr. Green Waggener, Chair) made an on-site inspection during driveway construction activities at the Admissions Building and advised the administration with regard to tree preservation issues there. Neither CBSS nor EIC was notified in advance of plans for this project.

The Energy Conservation Subcommittee (Dr. Carl Hand, Chair) of the EIC revised the Energy Conservation Policy developed last year and presented it to the EIC for review on 17 November 2006.

On 17 November 2006 the EIC participated in a day-long retreat sponsored by the Office of the Vice-President for Finance and Administration. Working closely with Mr. Jim Black, Vice-President for Finance and Administration, Mr. Bob Delong, Director of Environmental and Occupational Safety, and Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning, a campus-wide comprehensive environmental management plan was reviewed and revised.

The CBSS has continued to work closely with the Campus Recreation Department and Plant Operations personnel on development of the Campus Recreation Ropes Course initiated last year. This has included participation in a review of presentations by prospective contractors on 05 December 2006 and several on-site surveys on 03 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 17 April 2007, and 24 April 2007. Also, Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning, has confirmed that wetlands have been surveyed and delineated on this site and that no wetlands will be affected by this project. This project would serve as a model for future collaboration between administration and faculty with regard to construction, which is the result of timely, proactive, and open consultation with the CBSS initially through the efforts of Mr. Russ Mast (Dean of Students) and Mr. Richard Hammond (Director of Campus Recreation) and the continued involvement of CBSS in all stages of project development, more recently facilitated by Dr. Vic Douglass (Physical Plant Facilities Planning).

The EIC has reviewed proposals and advised the administration on plans for outdoor lighting (1) along the City Bike Trail west of the Student Recreation Center, (2) at the Dewar Education Center lot along North Oak Street, and (3) in the parking lot at the intersection of North Oak Street and West College Street. In these cases, security issues and associated due diligence considerations were the primary factors in decisions by Mr. Jim Black, Vice-President of Finance and Administration, to install the outdoor lighting. All lighting will be in compliance with the VSU Outdoor Lighting Policy.

On 13 April 2007 Mr. Scott Sikes, Director of the VSU Foundation, reported to the EIC on plans for construction of an athletic field house and practice fields on VSU Foundation property south of Sunset Cemetery; this project is scheduled to commence September 2007. The VSU Foundation has worked through the City of Valdosta to obtain the necessary tree removal permits and will develop a landscape plan in full compliance with the City's Landscape Development and Tree

Protection Ordinance. Mr. Sikes expressed his regret that the plans called for the removal of nearly all trees, including some large live oaks, a sentiment shared by the many on the EIC and CBSS.

On 13 April 2007, Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning, reported to the EIC on plans for installation of two chilled water plants at Powell Hall and connecting piping between Powell Hall and Ashley, Reade, and Converse halls, which will likely have a negative effect on old longleaf pine trees near Powell Hall. This project is scheduled for completion during Summer 2007. On 16 April 2007, representatives of the CBSS reviewed the plans and recommended the installation of one chiller plant at Powell Hall dedicated to Powell Hall and a separate larger chiller plant for Ashley, Reade and Converse halls, thus, eliminating the need for piping between Powell Hall and Ashley, Reade and Converse halls and thereby avoiding destructive trenching through the grove of old longleaf pines. In response, a representative of the administration indicated that the committee's recommendations could not be followed, because the two chilled water plants had already been purchased. In subsequent communication on 17 May 2007, Dr. Vic Douglass (Facilities Planning, Physical Plant) indicated that the two chiller plants at Powell Hall were needed to provide backup should one malfunction. Representatives of the CBSS will continue to work closely with the administration in order to minimize root damage to the old longleaf pines. We urge the administration to consult with the EIC or CBSS as early as possible to avoid such situations in the future.

On 13 April 2007 Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning, reported to the EIC on early stage plans for extensive developments on North Campus scheduled for 2011. Members of the EIC made it clear that this project potentially affects many trees, including a large stand of old pines (mostly loblolly pine) along Pendleton Avenue. At the request of the EIC Chair, Mr. Sable affirmed that he would have a representative of the CBSS placed on the steering committee for this project. A representative of EIC and CBSS was invited and attended a North Campus Pre-planning meeting on 17 May 2007.

The faculty's interest and involvement in recycling on campus predate the Faculty Senate, extending back nearly two decades when Ms. Bette Bechtel (Arts & Sciences) was the first chair of the Recycling Committee. Subsequently, Dr. Brad Bergstrom (Arts & Sciences), Dr. Wayne Plumly (Business), Dr. Carl Hand (Arts & Sciences), Dr. Ari Santas (Arts & Sciences), and Dr. Diane Holliman (Arts & Sciences) have vigorously advocated recycling at VSU through their involvement on the EIC. Despite their substantial efforts, an ongoing, viable recycling program has never materialized, primarily because of a lack of administrative support. Nevertheless, recent activities fostered by Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning, have led to implementation of a new recycling program on campus, and there appears to be cause for optimism that the administration is finally on board with regard to recycling.

Representatives of the EIC were invited by the VSU administration to participate in pre-design meetings on 25th and 26th April 2007 for (1) construction and renovation of Hopper, Georgia, and Reade halls, (2) the new student union, (3) the new student health center, (4) and the Oak Street and Sustella parking decks. EIC representatives were able to attend all but the pre-design meeting for the new student union. EIC representatives attended additional pre-design meetings on 10 May 2007 and anticipate further involvement during pre-planning for these projects.

At the direction of President Zaccari, the EIC has collaborated with the administration to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the University. This document is designed to enable the University administration to ensure compliance with the policies and requirements of various federal, state, and local agencies.

1. Parts 1 and 2 of the EMP are based upon North Carolina State University's EMP and were drafted by Mr. Bob Delong and Ms. Meredith Lancaster of VSU's Department of Environmental and Occupational Safety following their participation in a workshop on environmental management systems.
 - a. Part 1, Policy and Organization, was reviewed and revised by the EIC at an all day session on 17 November 2006, sponsored by Mr. Jim Black, Vice-President of Finance and Administration.
 - b. Part 2, Implementing Procedures, was extracted directly from governmental policy manuals by VSU's Department of Environmental and Occupational Safety and, therefore, is not subject to local modification.
2. The Appendix contains VSU's local environmental policy, reviewed and revised by the EIC working closely with the key administrators responsible for implementation. It contains the following elements.
 - a. The Waste Prevention and Recycling Policy – Recent, extensive revision of the policy developed last year by the Recycling Subcommittee of the EIC was led by Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning.

- b. The Energy Policy – The Energy Policy was developed over the past two years by the Energy Conservation Subcommittee of the EIC under the leadership, last year, of Dr. James Hornsby and, this year, of Dr. Carl Hand working closely with Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning.
 - c. The Outdoor Lighting Policy – The Outdoor Lighting Policy, developed by the EIC, has existed since November 2001. The policy was reviewed this year, and revision has been minimal.
 - d. The Tree Preservation and Maintenance Policy – In its early form this policy pre-dates the Faculty Senate. The Tree Preservation and Maintenance Policy has been recently reviewed and revised by the EIC working closely with Mr. Ray Sable, Director of Physical Plant and Facilities Planning.
3. The entire EMP document was reviewed by the University Council and, through the University Council, was also reviewed by the Council on Staff Affairs (COSA) and the Student Government Association (SGA).
 4. Mr. Bob DeLong and Ms Meredith Lancaster of VSU's Department of Environmental and Occupational Safety are responsible for development of the core EMP document.
 5. Dr. Christy Yates is responsible for steering the EMP document through the University Council enabling review by various VSU constituencies including COSA and SGA, and she has graciously incorporated revisions stemming from the University Council's review of the document.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Carter, EIC Chair
17 May 2007