**12 January 2011: Resolution on Proposed Changes to the Virginia Retirement System (with the PECC)**

At the General Faculty Council meeting Wednesday January 12th, the Council unanimously endorsed the Provost Employee Council’s resolution to the governor’s proposed changes to the Virginia Retirement Plan. Our endorsement of this resolution includes the following addition:

The General Faculty Council endorses the resolution of the Provost Employee Council regarding the proposed changes to the Virginia Retirement System and also requests that President Sullivan and the University administration work to address the similar issues around the Optional Retirement Plan.

Below please find the unanimously approved Council resolution regarding the Governor's proposed VRS funding changes. We believe several or all of the other employee councils may pass similar joint resolutions, which we will submit to President Sullivan by January 20th. Specifically, the resolution is in regard to Governor McDonnell's proposed budget amendment that would provide state employees with a 3% pay increase while requiring state employees to contribute 5% of their salary to VRS, resulting in a 2% pay cut.

**PECC Resolution on the Governor's Proposed 2011 VRS Changes passed January 11, 2011**

WHEREAS: The employees of the University of Virginia have not had a salary increase in the past three fiscal years and in five of the past ten fiscal years; and

WHEREAS: The employees of the University of Virginia have helped overcome the Commonwealth's current revenue shortfall by doing the work of the University's unfilled positions; and

WHEREAS: The current Virginia Retirement System funding shortfall was not created by the employees of the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS: The current Virginia Retirement System promised benefits are a valued and necessary component of the University of Virginia employee compensation package; and

WHEREAS: The employees of the University of Virginia support efforts to ensure that the Virginia Retirement System is fiscally stable.

NOW THEREFORE the Provost Employee Council of the University of Virginia hereby requests that President Sullivan and the University administration work through the legislative process to find a long-term solution to better fund the Virginia Retirement System while not reducing the salary of University of Virginia employees.

**Notes:**

As you share this information with your constituents you may also want to provide them with the web address for the University's State Governmental Relations Office https://sgr.virginia.edu which provides weekly updates on the Legislative Session.

In addition <http://www.virginia.edu/governmentalrelations/legislators.html> contains a link to find out Who's My Legislator. While the Council and UVa encourage employees to be active in the political process, please be aware that if employees wish to contact their legislators, there are guidelines that must be followed:

1. Do not use UVA letterhead or stationery
2. Do not use UVA resources including email
3. Do not contact legislators during work hours
4. Make it clear in your correspondence that you are not representing the University of Virginia with your views

Sarah Collie, Assistant Vice President for Management & Budget/Director, State Government Relations, also suggests that during the Legislative Session constituents mail any correspondence to the legislators' Richmond address as that is where they will be located for the next couple of months. Sarah also recommended email as a good method of contacting legislators.

We are hopeful that our concern regarding the Governor's proposed VRS changes in his budget amendment will be heard by the Governor and legislature.