

# **Staff Senate Constituency Report to Virginia Tech Board of Visitors June 4, 2007 Jean Brickey Staff Senate President**

Rector Lutz, Members of the Board of Visitors, Dr. Steger, administrators and guest. It is my honor and a privilege to talk to you about Virginia Tech's Staff Senate and staff.

At the March Board of Visitors Meeting the Staff Senate Constituent report listed the status of goals for 2006-2007. I would like to give you an update on these goals. Some of the Staff Senate goals which were being worked on in early April are now delayed due to the tragedy in April, but the Staff Senate hopes to complete those goals by the fall of 2007.

## **Update on Goals for 2006-2007**

- Establish Staff Associations in areas that have been reorganized over the last few years.
  - At the Staff Senate June meeting the Staff Senate hopes to vote on the approval of a Staff Association for the Provost Office and the Office of Outreach and International Affairs. There are two other Staff Associations the Staff Senate hopes to establish by fall 2007.
- Assist in informing and involving the Staff and non student wage employees in the policy making for the Higher Education Restructuring Act. The Employee Advisory Committee is now established and soon working groups will be established to address new staff human resources policies needed to move forward with Higher Educational Restructuring Act.
- Update the Staff Senate Web pages. The new Staff Senate web is updated with the exception of putting some archived information on the page. Please view this page at [www.staffsenate.vt.edu](http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu).
- The Staff Senate has published the new Staff Senate Brochure. Each of you should have in your notebooks a copy of the new Staff Senate Brochure.
- Work closely with Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs to communicate vital information on issues of importance to staff.
- We added a goal in April. To work closely with the staff making sure they have the opportunity to talk with counselors and help faculty/staff and students as needed in the healing process after the events of April 16, 2007.
- On April 19, 2007, the Staff Senate wrote two resolutions. A Resolution of Sympathy for the entire Virginia Tech Community, and the other a Resolution of thanks to Dr. Steger the Administration, Virginia Tech Police and Emergency response teams.

## **Staff Development**

- On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Staff Senate held its annual James D. McComas Staff Leadership Seminar. The decision was made to continue with the seminar even though we had to change one of the speakers a week before the event. There were approximately 90 participants and 17 staff leaders from 9 of Virginia's other colleges and universities. A reception was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for our outside guest at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Some of the comments we have gotten from our outside participants are "Great Job, we give you an A+ thank you for the opportunity to join your leadership seminar and work with you on governance issues and hope you will remember us in the future and thank you for the opportunity to network with staff leaders across the state of Virginia, what a great idea."
- At the request of Mr. James Hyatt, the Staff Senate is all ready starting to work on a proposal for a National Staff Leadership Conference to be held at Virginia Tech sometime in the year 2007-2008.

## **Staff Senate Speakers to Date**

- A university Benefits counselor spoke briefly to the Staff Senate about the changes in our Health Care for 2007-2008.

- The university's Employee Assistance Program is one of the benefits provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia, through Value-Options. Representatives from Human Resources and Value-Options met with the Senate to share information about grief counseling and how to handle a tragedy such as the one experienced on April 16, 2007. The information packets brought to this meeting were shared with the Staff Senator's Staff Associations and departments.
- Dr. Charles Steger spoke to the Staff Senate. He talked about his pride in the University Community during this tragedy and about measures that we are considering to safeguard our community in the future.
- Our last speaker for this year will be Mr. James Hyatt in June to discuss the Higher Education Restructuring Act, campus security issues and his ideas about the National Leadership Seminar.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you briefly some information on our award winning dining services. Dining Services is a part of our Student Programs and has 616 non faculty salaried and non student wage employees. There are an additional 400 student employees during the academic year. The staff in our dining services works various shifts to cover a twenty-four hour seven days a week operation when classes are in session. The bakers come in at 2:00am and the workers night workers at Dietrich Express leave at 2:00am. This department serves up to 31,000 meals to students each day and a total of 5.3 million meals per year. Our food is so good we had 13,058 off campus meal plan holders this past year. During the Hokie football season we cater all the meals for our South End Zone and West Stadium Club seating. Our dining program was rated #2 in the nation by The Princeton Review for best food on a campus out of 361 colleges and universities nationwide. We were named the #1 Franchise in the company for Au Bon Pain (1<sup>st</sup> award given by them to a college or university). Deet's Place, our coffee shop won the Gold Cup award which is very difficult to achieve since we roast our own coffee. This past year our annual sales were in excess of 34 million. All these accomplishments are due to our great staff working in the dining programs.

The Staff Senate has elected Judy Alford from Learning Technologies as the President of the Staff Senate and Staff Representative to the Board of Visitors for 2007-2008 and Tom Tucker from the University Architects Office as the Vice President of the Staff Senate.

As the outgoing President of Virginia Tech's Staff Senate, I want to say thank you to the Board of Visitors for you support this past year and for the opportunity you and Dr. Steger have given me to be Virginia Tech's first Staff representative on the Board of Visitors. It has been a privilege to serve Virginia Tech's staff for the last two years. Virginia Tech has a great staff as evidenced on April 16, 2007 and the following weeks, we have seen our staff go above and beyond the job duties to get the work done under very stressful conditions. Our staff does not hesitate to go above and beyond their assigned duties when there is a job to be done. The Staff Senate also wants to thank Linda Woodard for her continued support. I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement this year. You have made me feel welcome on this board and made it a very good experience.