

Staff Senate Constituency Report  
Virginia Tech Board of Visitors  
September 15, 2014  
Presented by Dan Cook, Staff Senate President

Rector Petrine, members of the Board of Visitors, President Sands, administrators and distinguished guests: I would like to start by saying what an honor and privilege it is to be here with you today and to serve as the President of the Staff Senate. I am excited to see what the coming year will bring.

For staff members the summer months have been busy with a number of things: helping to set up for several different on-campus activities (numerous sport camps, academic camps and the like), as well as getting caught up (taking advantage of the time when student overhead is minimal). The latter part of the summer saw activities geared toward getting ready to welcome in the latest class of our great "Hokie Nation".

Over the summer, the staff of Va Tech was dealing with the issue of merit based pay raises. Dr. Hal Irvin, associate vice president of human resources was invited to our August Senate meeting to address these concerns. The issue was due to only University Staff being eligible, therefore locking out about 50 percent of staff. The senate executive board, as well as the staff senate worked closely with our Human Resources Department to get information out quickly and to help answer any questions that we could. There was a lot of frustration at first, and some did persist, but I feel it could have been a lot worse without the collaborative effort between us two. As of this writing, there were a little over 250 people that made the switch from classified staff to university staff, and about 50 that opted into AP Faculty.

There is some concern in the staff ranks about the recently announced 882 million dollar shortfall of Virginia's two-year budget. In the wake of several years of a "tightening of the belt", we will anxiously await to see the path that will be laid out. We will, of course, welcome any occasion to give input on any matters in which we could help.

Now that classes have resumed, the staff is settling in for what promises to be another exciting year. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board on behalf of the staff of Virginia Tech and welcome any questions or comments that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Cook  
President, Staff Senate