

Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

July 20, 2017
12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M
North End Center in Room 2420

MINUTES

Attendees: Bonnie Alberts, Judy Alford, Chelsea Blanchet, Cynthia Booth, Angel Carter, Chad Dalton, Pat Donovan, Judy Fielder, Sandra Gabbert, Bruce Harper, Anna Hawthorne, Brian Huddleston, Doug Hylton, Amy Ingram, Katrina Loan, Zerita Montgomery, Albert Moore, April Myers, Hannah Parks, Heather Parrish, Allie Price, Kim Ridpath, Robert Sebek, Sally Shupe, Tamarah Smith, Laura Steinberg, Judy Taylor, Sue Teel, James Venable, Tami Watson, Beverly Williams, Sarah Woodward, Jon Wooge

Webex Attendee(s):

Excused: Debbie Breon, Sue Ellen Crocker, Kim Dulaney, Lee Ann Ellis, Velva Groover, Robena Hughes, Steve Nagle, Lenora Stover,

Call to order at 12:01 p.m. by President, Robert Sebek.

The agenda was electronically submitted to senators a week before the meeting. With no additions, Katrina made the motion to accept the agenda and it was unanimously approved.

Attendance sheet for check-in was available near room entrance.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of June minutes was done electronically.

Staff Senate Standing Committees

Each senator should join at least one of the standing committees. Alternates are welcome to join, but it is not mandatory.

Updates

- Communications – Katrina Loan – The Communications Committee informs the staff, university committee, the Board of Visitors and the Virginia State Legislature as to the mission of the Staff Senate. It communicates information to staff concerning new employee orientation, employee training and development, incentives and rewards, benefits, retirement planning, and related matters utilizing university and non-university media and/or other appropriate means as needed. This group is very busy and could use more members.

- Elections and Nominations – Jon Wooge – The primary job of this committee is to coordinate the elections of senate officers and staff membership on university commissions, committees and council. Election is held every spring, working through the winter to seek volunteers and putting the ballot together. This committee also works with the Executive Committee of the Senate to assist Staff Associations across campus who want to get more engaged.
- Policies and Issues – Robert Sebek – Mr. Sebek is the temporary Chair of the Policies and Issues Committee. This committee serves as a link between the Staff Senate and the Office of Personnel Services and/or University Administration in general on personnel and related matters. They bring to the Staff Senate’s attention changes in policies and procedures that may affect the staff and advises the Staff Senate on these issues. This includes monitoring the activities of the University Council, Commissions, Advisory Councils and Committees that may affect the staff.
- McComas Leadership Seminar – Tamarah Smith – This committee is in charge of planning the yearly James D. McComas Staff Leadership Seminar, which is open to all University and Classified staff at Virginia Tech. They strategize as a group to find faculty, staff and student leaders from around the campus and the community to speak to issues of staff leadership. The goal is to provide a program which meets staff where they are, helping them grow their skills as leaders. Other areas of planning include venue, registration, door prizes, goody bags, sponsors, vendors, etc.

University Council, Commission, Committees

Most University Committees, Commissions and Council have at least one staff seat. Senators (and, in some cases alternates) are encouraged to participate in at least one university Committee, Commission or Council.

Presentation: April Myers: Shared Governance

Ms Myers is the Governance and Projects Coordinator. Shared Governance is the balance between administration, faculty, staff and student participation in decision-making processes. The President has the final say in every resolution that is brought forward. Ms. Myers briefly reviewed the history of shared governance. Student and staff representation were added to shared governance in 1992 (Staff Senate was created that year). University By-laws were updated in 2005, and those are essentially the By-laws that we have today. AP Faculty has a commission, but not a senate. Ms Myers reviewed staff’s role in Shared Governance. It is important to note that the Staff Senate President serves as a non-voting representative on the Board of Visitors. Ms Myers stressed the importance of attending University Commission meetings and reporting to Staff Senate. There are 43 seats for staff to fill on University Commissions, Committees and Council. Ms Myers reviewed the change in University Winter Closing and how the staff influenced this change. It was noted that, due to the Winter Session, it is currently being discussed that this resolution may be revoked. Ms Myers relayed a message from President Sands, saying that shared governance is important to him and to the university.

Amendment to Staff Senate Constitution

The previous constitutional amendment went through multiple steps before it was approved by

the Board of Visitors. It was noted that the senate makes multiple minor changes that don't need to be addressed by the BOV, so this amendment states that the University Council can be the final stop. This is the second reading, and is open for discussion. The question was raised by Mrs. Judy Alford, as to why we would want to distance ourselves from the BOV. The question was also raised as to whether or not the Faculty Senate takes their changes to the BOV. Mr. Sebek responded that it seemed to be vague, but it appears as though sometimes their amendments go to the BOV and sometimes they do not. As for our relationship with the BOV, we still have a representative to the Board. It was pointed out that, even if this amendment passes, we could always bring bigger issues before the Board. Ms Sue Teel proposed that the wording be changed to "...may not be required..." and also to make sure that the President still be part of the process. Ms Anna Hawthorne made the motion to make this amendment go back to the Policies and Issues Committee to re-work the language. The motion was approved. Ms. Myers offered to review the amendment before it goes forward.

Resolution

Ms Sue Teel reviewed the history on this Resolution. This Resolution states that Commission Chairs should be communicating to all four constituency groups. This is the first reading of this resolution. Mr. Sebek will have the Policies and Issues Committee review this resolution before the next reading.

Standing Committee Meetings

Senators broke off into four groups to discuss each of the standing committees.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is August 17, 2017 at 12 PM in the Duck Pond Room, Inn at VA Tech

Adjourned 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Parrish

Staff's Role in Shared Governance

