Staff Senate minutes: December 17, 2015
Noon – 1:00pm, 2420 North End Center

Attending: Blair Allen, Yohna Chambers, Dan Cook, LeeAnn Ellis, Velva Groover, Alex Guest, Steve Myers, Steve Nagle, Alex Parrish, Donna Raines, Robert Sebek, Louellen Sharp, Amy Stanford, Quinn Steen, Judy Taylor, Leslie Thornton-O'Brien, Tom Tucker, Tami Watson, Jon Wooge

Excused: Judy Alford, Cyndi Booth, LaTawnya Burleson, Rhonda Hawley, Anna Hawthorne, Robena Hughes, Janet Murphy, Heather Parrish, Danette Poole, Amy Tunison, Ken Wieringo

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order.

Kate Keeney and Judy Ridinger presented on the Beyond Boundaries initiative. Our current strategic plan covers 2012-2018; this process is planning for the next plan. They are looking 30 years into the future of the university.

There are two goals:

- Advance as a global land-grant institution
- Strategically advance the challenges and opportunities presented by the changing landscape in higher education

There are four thematic areas that support these goals:

- Envisioning the campus of the future
- Advancing the global land-grant institution
- Preparing students for the world they will live and work in
- Discover new funding models

The group will be using social media to communicate with the community.

Tom Tucker presented on VGEA. They are starting to develop priorities for this legislative session. (Mr. Tucker is on the legislative committee.) The new budget proposal has money for raises included. VGEA is working on:

- Increase the allowance for retirees towards health insurance premiums
- Leave simplification issues
- Layoff priorities
- Adding employee protections for sexual orientation
- Limiting employee info in the public record

Members of VGEA get notification of pending legislation that affects employees. See Mr. Tucker for membership forms. If we can get enough local members, we can get state leaders to come speak to us.

We had a brief reminder of the Faculty Senate’s resolution on shared governance that should be discussed with your constituents. We may vote on this resolution at our February meeting.

Comments on the Parking Master Plan close December 18, 2015.
Senators are reminded that they must sign up to join one of our four standing committees:

- Policies and Issues
- Communications
- Elections and Nominations
- McComas Leadership Seminar

Please note your choice(s) on the attendance roster.

We will be meeting in the VBI Conference Center for the next three meetings. [The January meeting was cancelled.]

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sebek
Staff Senate Secretary