Staff Senate minutes: February 18, 2016

Noon, VBI Conference Center

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Blair Allen, Cyndi Booth, LaTawnya Burleson, Dan Cook, LeeAnn Ellis, Velva Groover, Alex Guest, Anna Hawthorne, Linda Hazelwood, Robin Lawson, Katrina Loan, Albert Moore, Steve Myers, Jason Oberoi, Alex Parrish, Heather Parrish, Danette Poole, Faye Price, Robert Sebek, Judy Taylor, Sue Teel, Tom Tucker, James Venable, Sally Wieringa, Jon Wooge, Montasir Abbas (Faculty Senate rep)

Excused: Thomas Czamanske, Janet Murphy, Steve Nagle, Donna Raines, Lenora Stover, Amy Tunison, Ken Wieringo

Mr. Cooks called the meeting to order. The agenda was adopted.

Ms. Parrish reported that the McComas Leadership Seminar would be held Wednesday, April 6 at The Inn at Virginia Tech. Registration will be available soon.

Mr. Wooge, chair of the Elections and Nominations Committee, reported that senate elections would be held around April 1 for senate representatives to University Council, commissions, and committees. Nominations will be accepted through March 15. Openings are (with links to pages that describe the work of each group):

- University Council (two seats- any staff)
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (one seat- staff senator or senate alternate)
- Commission on Research (one seat- staff senator or senate alternate)
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
  - Academic area rep (one seat any staff from an academic area)
  - Staff Senate rep (one seat- staff senator or senate alternate)
  - Administrative area rep (one seat- any staff from an administrative area)
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (one seat- staff senator or senate alternate)
- Academic Support Committee (one seat- any staff)
- Employee Benefits Committee (two seats- staff senator or senate alternate)
- Energy and Sustainability Committee (two seats- staff senator or senate alternate)
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (one seat- any staff)

Members of the Faculty Senate Executive Board visited to discuss any issues arising between faculty and staff. Dr. Dalloul (Faculty Senate President), Dr. Robinson (Secretary-Treasurer), and Dr. Abbas (Vice President) asked about concerns staff may have. Communication, changes in overtime/expectations for after-hours work, and maintenance work were discussed. Differences in how the faculty and staff senates worked were reviewed. The newly adopted resolution authored by the Faculty Senate means that resolutions considered in the four commissions that concern faculty (faculty affairs, undergrad and graduate studies, and research) are also sent to the Faculty Senate for feedback.
Other commissions and committee representatives were asked to submit written reports (attached below).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sebek
Staff Senate Secretary

Recent commission and committee reports

(Please send summaries to Robert Sebek.)

UCIA report

Ian Leuschner reported that only one proposal had been received for the Service Learning in Nepal. **OIRED**-Larry Vaughn reported that in December, Dennis Treacy, a member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, traveled to East Africa for an Integrated Pest Management Lab meeting on an invasive weed. OIRED recently submitted a large Natural Resource Management project proposal for work in Ghana. Awardees will be notified between April and June.

**Cranwell International Center**-David Clubb, Cranwell welcomed approximately 20-30 exchange students, three of them athletes. Cranwell will be hosting its first International Cultural Achievement Ceremony. The Saudi Arabian government is interested in sending 300-400 high school graduates to one of the top six U.S. senior military academies.

**Language and Culture Institute**-Susan Neu reported that Foreign Language classes will once again be offered for free to staff and faculty this semester. Spouses can take classes as well. Eleven visiting Humphrey Fellows will be at Virginia Tech from mid-March to mid-August.

**International Education Policy Committee**-Ian reminded the college representatives from Pamplin, Architecture and Engineering that the foot work for removing the per credit hour class fees is in the beginning stages.

**OIA**-Guru Ghosh Several members from UCIA are currently in Oman in an ongoing working relationship to make sure our actions there remain strong and vibrant. Dr. Ghosh just returned from Chennai, India, where he finalized the partnership with MGR University. A recent visit to Shandong, China, shows a thriving expansion of the Mechanical Engineering program. A replacement for Pamplin at the Steger Center is still under consideration.

**UCIA Membership Addendum**-David Clubb once again introduced adding a representative from the Corps of Cadets/ROTC to the UCIA membership. This is the second announcement prior to voting.

**Global Priorities for Advancement**

Nicole Sanderlin passed around a handout of shared ideas and priorities and invited additional ideas from the group. Theresa Johansson suggested adding a funding structure for the Global LLC. Ian Leuschner said that international alumni should be given some consideration. Dr. Ghosh noted a recent meeting with Patty Perillo, the President and Provost included suggestions for a location on campus to hold up to 515 employees and 300-500 student room accommodations. The facility also needs to include housing for guests and short term faculty, space for cultural events and performances.

**Global Village report**-Global Village committee continues to meet once a month sharing ideas, inviting curriculum, naming ideas, wondering about inviting by application or invitation, down to decorations. Discussion took place on funding possibilities.
Samantha Winn said the Library has an ongoing set of programs this semester. One upcoming program is Latino Americans 500 years.