

Staff Senate minutes: April 21, 2016

Noon, Biocomplexity Institute Conference Room

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Dan Cook, Chad Dalton, Velva Groover, Alex Guest, Anna Hawthorne, Linda Hazelwood, Robin Lawson, Katrina Loan, Sheree Montgomery, Steve Nagle, Alex Parrish, Heather Parrish, Danette Poole, Allie Price, Robert Sebek, Tamara Smith, Sue Teel, Ken Wieringo, Jon Wooge

Excused: Cyndi Booth, LaTawnya Bureson, Robena Hughes, Janet Murphy, Donna Raines, Louellen Sharp, Amy Splitt, Sally Wieringa

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order.

Next month's meeting will be back in the NEC. Staff Appreciation Day will be held May 18.

Our guest was Wayne Robinson, member of the Board of Visitors, alum, and member of the VT Hall of Fame for basketball. He shared his perspective from the BOV where he chairs the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee. The BOV wants to be more involved with governance groups.

His interests include student affairs, which he said was underfunded, but will be better represented in the upcoming capital campaign. He also talked about Whit Babcock's interest in academics and working with Dr. Perillo on best practices.

He noted that Black Alumni Weekend was this weekend and a number of events were taking place.

A number of members commended the McComas committee for their excellent work on this year's Seminar.

Staff were reminded that Open Enrollment would take place May 1-23, 2016.

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.)

Library Committee:

At our last meeting held on March 29, the University Library Committee continued to address concerns raised by our Graduate Student Representative on behalf of the graduate student body regarding library space dedicated as graduate student work areas. There is also discussion of conducting a comparative survey of the libraries of peer and other institutions for the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policy.

Transportation/Parking Committee:

There is a new university campaign: “Heads up Hokies” to remind everyone to pay attention to your surroundings when you’re walking, biking or driving on campus. Keep your eye on the “parking & transportation master plan” website: vt-ptmp.com; there are some major changes being planned! A roundabout is going to be built on Stanger St, across from the Surge building; construction should begin sometime next year. This is the only parking/transportation change that is scheduled within the next 4-5 years; there should be significant changes beginning as early as 2020. Different ideas are being discussed to reduce vehicular traffic on campus. A bus hub is going to be built on Perry St and there was a lot of discussion about how to utilize the buses for staff.

Energy & Sustainability Committee:

We went over all of the green RFP proposals presented by Denny Cochrane. These were as returned from budget i.e. the ones they were willing to fund. We had an update on the energy audits on buildings on campus that are considered energy hogs, the implementation of some meters on steam supplies on buildings from Ruben Avagyan. We had a short discussion on Arbor Day.

Employee Benefits Committee:

Hokie Wellness was discussed in regards to the history and recent changes, including merging with the student program. Their new tagline is “Helping Hokies Thrive”. Hokie Wellness provides the final approval for flexible work arrangements requests.

The Board of Directors for the Alliance for Building Better Childcare in the NRV had their 1st meeting on 2/29. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Becky Morris is scheduled to discuss Open Enrollment at our next meeting on 4/21.

Commission on Faculty Affairs:

We had a special meeting to vote on the proposal to include a new faculty classification - Collegiate Faculty, and that passed. Will go on to counsel, etc.