Staff Senate

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

August 16, 2018
Noon – 1:00pm, 440 Goodwin Hall (Capsule Conference Room)

AGENDA

Call to order by Robert Sebek

Attendance: Please sign the attendance sheet, including guests

Approval of Minutes: electronically

President's update: Mr. Sebek

Committee updates:
- Strategic Planning: Ms. Smith
- Staff @ VT task force: Ms. Smith
- Child Care: Ms. Loan

Presentation on the University Budget: Tim Hodge, Associate Vice President for Budget and Financial Planning

Staff Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees: Break up for committee meetings
- Communication: Mr. Harper
- Elections and Nominations: Ms. Taylor
- Policies and Issues: Ms. Alford
- McComas Leadership Seminar: Ms. Ingram

Adjournment

Zoom Video Conferencing Information

https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/742670384

Next meeting: September 20, 2018 in NEC 2420 with Matt Hanratty and Elisabeth Willis from Town of Blacksburg speaking on access to affordable housing
University Council, Commissions, Committees - Staff Senate Representative (term of office)


Commissions
Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty – MaDonna Overstreet (2021)
Commission on Faculty Affairs – Robert Sebek (2021)
Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies – Hannah Parks (2020)
Commission on Outreach and International Affairs – Wayne Crotto (2021)
Commission on Research – Steve Nagle (2019)
Commission on Student Affairs – Jonathan Poff (2020)
Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Steve Tatum (2019)
Commission on University Support – Sarah Woodward (2020), Judy Alford (2021)

Committees
Academic Support Committee – Tammie Smith (2019)
Athletics Committee – Robena Hughes (2020)
Campus Development Committee – Laura Steinberg (2020)
Commencement Committee – Nicole Akers (2021)
Computing and Communicating Resources Committee (suspended 2016-2018)
Energy & Sustainability Committee – Judy Taylor (2019), Alex Guest (2019)
Intellectual Properties Committee – Steve Tatum (2021)
Library Committee – Sally Shupe (2020)
Parking Appeals Hearing Committee – Kelli Hall-Manning (2019)
Transportation/Parking Committee – Sandra Gabbert (2020), Kimberly Higgs (2020), Megan Coulter (2021)
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Rachel Saville (2019)
Good afternoon Rector Treacy, members of the Board of Visitors, President Sands, administrators and distinguished guests. It is an honor to present to you updates from staff at Virginia Tech.

Staff Senate has already begun planning for a year of growth and continued exploration of issues affecting our lowest paid employees. We welcomed new senators to our July meeting and have reached out to areas not yet represented in Senate. I have met this weekend with staff from the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the Research Institute to ensure they can fully participate in shared governance and decision making processes.

The Senate’s child care committee is actively working on multiple proposals to improve access to affordable child care in the New River Valley. We will hear from local government representatives in September about access to affordable housing—an increasing concern among staff as older Blacksburg apartment complexes convert to luxury housing for affluent students, pricing out staff who have previously lived there. As the student body continues to grow, housing pressures close to the university result in staff living farther away, increasing their commuting expenses. Staff Senate has highlighted discounted parking options and alternative transportation services as a means to alleviate these costs.

We are excited to work with our new Vice President for Human Resources, Bryan Garey, when he starts in September. Under the Restructuring Act of 2006, university staff could have more options in terms of compensation, benefits, and leave than could classified staff limited under the state system, much as faculty employees long have had. In the past 12 years, the only change made for university staff has been the addition of merit raises in years when there has been no statewide raise. However, the other two institutions under the restructuring act, UVA and William & Mary, have implemented many changes to compensation ranges, available benefits, and leave programs. Senate leadership wants to work closely with Vice President Garey to explore similar changes that could be implemented here at Virginia Tech. These changes can improve our ability to recruit, retain, and develop staff who will support programs across the university as it continues to grow and improve.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sebek
President, Staff Senate