



# Staff Senate

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

2018-2019

## STAFF SENATE OFFICERS

### President: Robert Sebek

University Libraries  
6045 Newman Library  
560 Drillfield Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
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### Vice President: Tammie Smith

Summer & Winter Sessions  
EDM Marketing  
300 Turner Street, NW  
North End Center 3500  
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### Secretary/Treasurer: Katrina Loan

Physics  
120 Robeson Hall (0435)  
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### Parliamentarian: James Venable

Physics Robeson Hall (0435)  
850 West Campus Drive  
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## STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRS

Communications

**Bruce Harper** ([bharper@vt.edu](mailto:bharper@vt.edu)),  
University Relations/Creative Studio  
(0336)

Elections and Nominations

**Judy Taylor** ([taylor1@vt.edu](mailto:taylor1@vt.edu)),  
Provost Office (0132)

Policies and Issues

**Judy Alford** ([judv.alford@vt.edu](mailto:judv.alford@vt.edu)),  
TLOS (0292)

McComas Leadership Seminar

**Amy Ingram** ([amy.ingram@vt.edu](mailto:amy.ingram@vt.edu))  
Honors College (0427)

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)**

University Council – LaTawyna Burleson (2020), Velva Groover (2021), Brian Huddleston (2020), Katrina Loan (2020), Erin Poff (2019), Teresa Lyons (2019), Sue Teel (2021)

### **Commissions**

Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty – MaDonna Overstreet (2021)  
Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Tracy Newton (2019)  
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 Staff Policies and Affairs – Tammie Smith - Chair, (2019), Nicole Akers (2021), Judy Alford (2021), Lisa Boothe (2021), Lori Buchanan (2020), Sally Shupe (2020), Sue Teel (2020), LaTanya Burleson (2019), Teresa Lyons (2019), Betty Wilkins (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)  
University Advisory Council -Strategic Budgeting and Planning – Robert Sebek (2019)

### **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)  
Employee Benefits Committee – Kim Dulaney (2020), Katrina Loan (2019), Melissa Thomas (2019)  
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)

**Staff Senate Constituency Report**  
**Virginia Tech Board of Visitors**  
**August 27, 2018**  
**Presented by Robert Sebek, Staff Senate President**

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