

Staff Senate Constituency Report
Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
March 29, 2015
Presented by Dan Cook, Staff Senate President

Rector Petrino, members of the Board of Visitors, President Sands, administrators and distinguished guests: I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about what has been happening in the recent months in regard to Virginia Tech's staff.

Since our last Board of Visitors meeting, the Staff Senate has met a total of five times and we have had four visitors come and present to the senate on varying topics of interest to the staff here at Virginia Tech. As I had mentioned at the last meeting, Mr. Mike Mulhare, the Director of Emergency Management and Mrs. Angela King, Director of Employee Benefits were slotted and the first to come present. Mr. Mulhare informed the staff of some of the new items of interest, namely the new LiveSafe application for all of Va Tech. The following month Mrs. King presented and fielded numerous questions relating to the benefits of the staff. A very informative and well received presentation. We also had Mr. Randy Holden and Ms. Nancy Tran present as well. The presentation from Mr. Holden was aimed at the Employee's Spouse and Dependent Scholarship. In an attempt to spread the word and hopefully raise some money for the scholarship, the Staff Senate and the Faculty Senate have agreed to enter into a friendly competition to see who can reach out to the most folks. This rivalry will be decided by the number of people that donate, not the total number of dollars. We expect this to kick off sometime next month. We hope to add a positive impact to such a worthy cause.

The Staff Senate is getting geared up for its elections next month, and spent the last meeting hearing from nominees and discussing the ongoing mission of the senate.

I would also like to make a brief mention of an action item that made its way through the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs. In working with the Department of Human Resources we were able to enlarge the nominations window for the Presidential and Governor's Awards. This year the nominations will open on July 1 and close on February 1, 2016. This will give people several more months to enter nominations. This is in hope of growing the declining number of nominations that we have seen over the past number of years.

The staff continues to serve this great university's motto, "That I may serve". They are excited about the possibility of a raise this year, and are very grateful should that come through.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board on behalf of the staff of Virginia Tech and welcome any questions or comments that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Cook
President, Staff Senate