

Staff Senate Constituency Report
Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
June 6, 2016
Presented by Dan Cook, Staff Senate President

Good afternoon Rector Petrine, members of the Board of Visitors, President Sands, administrators and distinguished guests: once again I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about Virginia Tech staff events since our last meeting a couple of months ago.

In April the Staff Senate hosted the Board of Visitor's own Reverend Wayne Robinson as a guest speaker. He shared with the staff how valued they are as an integral part of the successful workings of Virginia Tech. He also highlighted some of the upcoming changes and visions that the university has on the horizon. He entertained a number of questions in the end, and I think that many were pleased that he took the time and effort to come speak with them. April was also the month that the staff put on the annual McComas Leadership Seminar. The theme this year was "Leadership – no title required". This seminar was very well received; in fact all 225 available slots were filled in less than 24 hours. The seminar was filled with outstanding leaders that gave moving and informational presentations. This list included Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, Dr. Scott Geller, Rick Sparks, Yohna Chambers, the esteemed Frank Beamer and a keynote address from none other than Charles Phlegar.

May brought in the annual Staff Appreciation Day festivities. There were tours to various parts of campus, there was music, and games and lots of food. Once again this was well attended this year and the staff will look forward to the offerings of next year. In the May Staff Senate meeting we had a presentation from Ms. Rebecca Morris, the Insurance Coordinator from Human Resources. She gave a brief rundown on what staff members could expect in the upcoming year and things to be mindful of during open enrollment.

I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with and to get to know all of you over the past two years. It is will mixed emotions that I have given my last constituency report. Relieved that it is coming to a close, but sad that it will soon be over. I have learned so much and grown in so many ways by some of the experiences and opportunities that were afforded to me over the past couple of years. I wish you all the very best in your continued service to this great university, and in all that you may do. With that I would like to introduce you to the President Elect of the Staff Senate, Mr. Alex Parrish. Alex has been a member of the staff at Virginia Tech since 2008. Starting as a graphic designer for ICTAS, he later moved to the department of biomedical engineering and mechanics to become the marketing team lead. He became a staff senator in 2012 and was elected to the vice-presidency in 2014. Alex has chaired the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs for the past

two years, been active within the University Council and chaired an ad-hoc committee designed to strengthen leadership within the Staff Senate. To his credit, Alex was the recipient of a President's Award for Excellence in 2013. Originally from Kentucky, he and his wife, Heather, moved to the New River Valley eight years ago to be closer to her family. They have a daughter named Willow, who is four. I have the utmost in confidence in Mr. Parrish's ability to lead the Staff Senate and I am sure you will enjoy working with him.

As always, I truly 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