

**Staff Senate Constituency Report**  
**Virginia Tech Board of Visitors**  
**August 28, 2016**  
**Presented by Alex Parrish, Staff Senate President**

Good afternoon Rector Chapman, members of the Board of Visitors, President Sands, administrators and distinguished guests: it is an honor to speak on behalf of fellow staff in the presence of University Leadership.

The summer is a time to catch up and re-evaluate direction for the busy time of the upcoming academic year, and Staff Senate has been no exception. Since the last report, we have been working toward improving internal communication to senators, identifying senators who may have rotated off, and centralizing the focus of the Staff Senate to the vision of Virginia Tech. To this end, we hosted Dr. Scott Geller, who spoke at length about the Actively Caring for People campaign. This worldwide initiative is woven through the fabric of *Ut Prosim*, and it is our hope that we can garner a deeper vision of serving our fellow staff by participating in the groundwork of this great program.

The McComas Leadership Seminar Committee has been actively developing the 2017 conference, tentatively titled, "Servant Leadership." It is sheer coincidence that this occurred around the same time as the initiative with Dr. Geller, as they took the idea from a video that Buzz Williams posted on the topic. He is also one of the confirmed speakers for the day, and Provost Rikakis will be the keynote speaker.

Changes in the language of the Staff Senate by-laws and constitution are currently under review, those changes will be making their way to this body sometime this year.

The College of Engineering Staff Association led an initiative which picked up support from across the University to provide flood relief in Rainelle, West Virginia, in cooperation with Americorp. The two days of work, July 28 and 29, included the tearing out of a good amount of wood and insulation in five houses around Rainelle. Staff led the initiative, led by AP faculty and research faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and Research Division.

Virginia Commonwealth University is hosting a gathering of Staff Senate leaders from around Virginia, with Virginia Tech invited. The summit will take place in October, and Virginia Tech Staff Senate plans to send a representative to join the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Parrish  
President, Staff Senate