

Staff Senate Minutes  
March 16, 2006  
1810 Litton Reaves

The meeting was called to order. Welcome was given.

Present: Judy Alford, Susan Archer, Jean Brickey, Catherine Caldwell, Sam Camden, Mary Ann Cole, Sue Ellen Crocker,Carolyn Dudding, Jessie Eaves, Velva Groover, Susan Haymore, Trans Hundley, C. Denise Jones, Joyce Landreth, Lori Lee, Tracy McCoy, Trina Pauley, Christy Porterfield, Linda Price, Lynn Robinson, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Bradley Scott, Louellen Sharp, Lori Anne Sheppard, Melissa Simpkins, Jody Smiley, Joyce Smith, Chris Thomas, Hubert Walker, Vicki Walter, Ken Wieringo, Jon Wooge

Excused: Robin Atkins, Walter Hartman Linda Price, Tess Sentelle,

Guest: Dr. Zenobia Hikes, Don Harvey, Luther Moseley

McComas Seminar – May 4, 2006, 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. – Yellow Brick Road, Where We Are Now, Where We Are Going. Attendance will be on first come/first serve basis. Register early. Title comes from the survey sent out and attendees will be discussing how to resolve what is happening in the future. Tables will be assigned.

Nominations are being accepted for Commissions, Councils, Committees and Staff Senate Officers. Submit names to Jon Wooge ([jwooge@vt.edu](mailto:jwooge@vt.edu)).

Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD) will hold a Roundtable discussion on March 26, 2006. Need a person from each Association area and President's or Executive Vice President's area who are currently not involve in governance to participate. Send name to Alicia Cohen ([acohen@vt.edu](mailto:acohen@vt.edu)) or Jean Brickey ([jbrickey@vt.edu](mailto:jbrickey@vt.edu)) by March 21, 2006.

Dr. Zenobia Lawrence Hikes was guest speaker. Handouts that gave an overview and vision for the Division of Student Affairs Office were passed out. Dr. Hikes came to Virginia Tech on 19 August 2005 to become the Vice President for Student Affairs. She received her Ph.D. degree from the University Delaware and wrote a column for a newspaper at a Marine Corps base in Okinawa, Japan.

She is responsible for a Division that employs 791 classified staff. The Division of Student Affairs is responsible for over 50 buildings that include 11 dining facilities and 44 residence halls where a lot of the Classified Staff in her Division work.

Dr. Hikes talked about Residential Learning Communities or more commonly known as “Theme Housing” program here at Virginia Tech and how they help to enrich the living and learning experiences of the 30 percent on-campus residents who live there.

The Division of Student Affairs Strategic Goals were presented as follows:

1. Enhance facilities (residential halls are a bit dated—needs renovations) (need to improve spaces to what students expect them to be – air condition, own space, etc.);
2. Strengthen Partnership between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs;
3. Enrich program and services to attract top-tier students;
4. Develop “Best Practice” living and learning communities (Theme housing);
5. Strengthen and develop intentional leadership initiative (need to put more emphasis on ethical development);
6. Improve campus climate creating a civil and just community for all VT students (there have been bias-motivated incidents that don't benefit any of us – Treat others as you want to be treated – Be Civil);
7. Strengthen Multicultural Program and Services;
8. Develop initiatives that more effectively address alcohol abuse (not just students but campus-wide problem) – (wants to establish an Alcohol Prevention Task Force).

9. Make new friends in the external community
10. Establish a brand identity for the Division. A Division-wide list serve has been set up.

Questions were asked and answered.

1. Theme Housing is not a new concept. It was started in the 80's.
2. She was involved in the Governance System at the other Universities.
3. With the newspaper taken away two years ago due to budget cuts and the housing, dining, and farm staff not receiving paper copies of University information any more, she is very much in agreement that all staff needs to be able to have access to a computer for communication. A member of her staff, Rick Johnson, is going to revisit the problem of not having computer access and ensure that all classified staff under her division does have access to a computer to obtain information needed. Johnston and Squires buildings already have computers that are set up. Housing Employees in three buildings share a computer.
4. A concern was expressed about people living in "Theme housing" and being segregated. Dr. Hikes indicated that the links between these people were their interests and academic areas not ethnic, age, etc. There are only 9000 beds here at VT. Most students go off campus to live after their Sophomore year.
5. Dr. Hikes would like suggestions on how to get computer accessibility to Pay Band 1 employees who are more tied down to their schedule.
6. She would like to encourage University Governance and professional development involvement among Pay Band 1 employees although she realizes that they may not want to get involved due to their working hours. Do need to promote more involvement from them if possible.
7. Develop alcohol abuse solutions for students, staff, faculty, and alumni. A report that there were three incidents with classified staff in the past two weeks. "Hokie Respect" program will stay under the Athletics Department. We are sending the wrong message out with our actions at athletic events. Need to go back to Moral Leadership, common courtesy, and back to basics. It can not be just me, me, me like it is displayed in Beavis Butt Head, Southpark, and /Survivor programs. Need to care about other people. It is a minority of the people who are causing the problems.

NEXT MEETING is April 20, 2006 Doug Martin is the speaker.

Send Council/Commission/Committee minutes to Carolyne Dudding ([usnavy@vt.edu](mailto:usnavy@vt.edu))

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyne S. Dudding