

Staff Senate Minutes
June 15, 2006
1810 Litton Reaves

The meeting was called to order. Welcome was given. Agenda was approved.

Present: Judy Alford, Kevin Ayoub, Jean Brickey, Catherine Caldwell, Sue Ellen Crocker,Carolynne Dudding, Jessie Eaves, Velva Groover, Jennifer Hundley, Travis Hundley, C. Denise Jones, Lori Lee, Maxine Lyons, Jimmy Martin, Linda Price, Lynn Robinson, Becky Saylor, Tess Sentelle, Louellen Sharp, Joyce Smith, Chris Thomas, Hubert Walker, Ken Wieringo

Excused: Susan Archer, Melissa Coleman, Joyce Landreth, Tracy McCoy, Bradley Scott, Lori Anne Sheppard, Jon Wooge

Guest: Dr. Ray Plaza, Dr. Elizabeth Flanagan, Dr. Mary Grace Theodore

Mr. Ray Plaza spoke to the Senate concerning the Draft Staff Diversity Research and Study Grant. The propose timeline of the program is to unveil it in September/October 2006 and start giving grants in January 2007. These grants would be used by staff to do research on diversity. Monies could be used to buy surveys previously completed, organize focus groups, buy books, pay for conferences, etc. Send Ray (rp25@vt.edu) a note if you have any concerns or questions.

Business Affairs Support Services (BASS) Association has written their By-laws and will be holding elections in the near future. They will be electing three senators and two alternates this election. The By-laws were approved with all 22 members in attendance plus five non-attending members with the following changes:

Article II. Mission Statement: In the 6th line down add “and” before Staff Senate and remove Commission on Classified State Affairs (CCSA)

Article III. Membership: 1st paragraph, 2nd line down put “non-student” before wage

Article IV. Elected Officers and Representatives: Need to stagger the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer terms to ensure there is continuity the first couple election times.

Article IV: Elected Officers and Representative. Staff Senators(s): Need to add “Based on certain number of staff, there will be two or more Senators and Alternates representing the Association.

Article IX. Elections. Election and Terms of Office for Staff Senators: 3rd paragraph, 1 line: Add “Based on certain number of staff, two or more Staff Senators and Alternates shall . . .

Article XI. Amendments: Add to 1st paragraph “By-laws changes must be approved by the Staff Senate.

Linda Woodard and Jean Brickey will be meeting with members in the administrators from area that currently do not have Staff Senators or Associations and try to establish an Association in these areas. There are still some areas without representation on campus.

Kurt Krause has requested a volunteer to serve on for Recreation Counseling and Clinical Services. One word of caution was given -- because this isn't a meeting in the Governance System, the staff would have to take time off to attend these meetings.

A letter will be sent from Linda Woodard in the next couple of weeks with more information concerning the Higher Restructuring Act. Linda will be available to talk to your department about this Act. Every policy will have to be approved through the Governance System before it is submitted to the Board of Visitors for

acceptance. This Act will not affect the current Classified Employees for at least a year or two. Don't panic, just keep up with changes that are taking place.

Dr. Flanagan, Vice President for Development, spoke on the Capital Campaign. She took questions from the staff and then addressed them. Some questions were:

How can you apply the money for the College to reach the Top 30?

How do we compare to the other peer Universities?

How is it going to incorporate things for Staff?

How do you keep employers (companies) motivated to give?

How can we use some of this money to provide training for Auxiliary Departments?

The Comprehensive Campaign – A campaign to generate support for the fund raising objective. Funding is received from various groups: tuition and fees, state funding, research funding, and support funding. The state provided funding for everything from salaries to buildings in the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's. That is no longer the case. State only provides 22% of VT funding and that amount is declining each year. Especially with the Higher Restructuring Act, the State funding will become less and less. We now want to be among the Elite Schools. Of the Top 30 schools, 28 of them have medical schools at their college. A booklet that lists some of the needs a few years ago the money was to be used for was handed out. Some of the needs are Academic Support for Excellence, Faculty Support, Program Support, Facilities to promote research, Undergraduate Financial Assistance Support, VT Beautification, Athletic, and the Community.

The Silent phase of the Campaign has already been launched. There are 35 people on the Dream Team that have contributed to the Campaign already and will be going out and visiting other prospective givers and encouraging them to give. There must be right leaders to allow access to doors world wide. We are well on our way to reaching the goal that has been set. If you have ambitious goals, you must have an ambitious campaign. People do want to be attached to a winner.

Comparing VT and UVA Endowment Funds, VT only has about 11% of what UVA has in their account. A new concept for VT is that we must raise money to build facilities. The Facility Fund is taking money away from counting towards the Endowment Fund.

The Public phase of the Campaign is when the Campaign is introduced to all the people so they can donate to the Endowment. There will be regional kickoffs in 12 cities across the country in three years to get the word out to those people. Everybody needs to be involved. Eighteen months before the Campaign ends, faculty and staff will be asked to donate. During the last Campaign, 9 percent of the goal came from faculty and staff. Contributors are very impressed with this percentage. People give because the faculty and staff care and support VT.

The Campaign started July 1, 2003 and unless it is extended will end December 31, 2010.

The Restructuring Act will help with shortening the time frame that it takes to approve building these facilities; and therefore, will help reduce the costs of those facilities.

Visitation itineraries of Dignitaries are sent to Department Chairs and Development personnel in the Colleges.

NEXT MEETING: July 20, 2006 -- Linda Woodward will be the speaker.

New Staff Governance notebooks will be handed out next month.

Dixon Hanna will be the speaker in August

Next Month (July 2006) a new Staff Senate Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dudding