

STAFF SENATE
Minutes
Thursday, September 20, 2007
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Call to Order by President Judy Alford and the agenda was adopted.

Attendance: Judy Alford, Susan Archer, Robin Atkins, Kevin Ayoub, Jean Brickey, Christina Brogdon, Catherine Caldwell, Sarah Castle, Shelby Cole, Dan Cook, Lisa Cotting, Paul Davis, Jessie Eaves, Karen Hall, Walter Hartman, Jennifer Hundley, Travis Hundley, Delbert Jones, Denise Jones, Tracey Kwister, Lori Lee, Tracy McCoy, Suzanne Plovano, Linda Price, Sharon Proffitt, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Mary Schaeffer, Bradley Scott, Louellen Sharp, Joyce Smith, Jerry Surface, Sue Teel, Tom Tucker, Vicki Walter, Ken Wieringo, Jon Wooge.

Excused: Joyce Landreth, Lori Anne Kirk, Rob Lowe, Christy Porterfield, and Chris Thomas.

Approval of Minutes (approved electronically)

Announcements:

- Dean Karen DePauw gave an informational talk regarding *VT-Engage*. Copies were handed out of a PowerPoint presentation that is available on the Engage website that outlines the *VT-Engage* initiative. The kickoff for the event will be held on the Drillfield, from 4PM to 7PM on October 16, 2007 and the event will run through April 16, 2008. *VT-Engage* is a way that all VT faculty, staff, and students can donate volunteer hours. This year it will be in memory of the 4/16/2007 tragedy. *VT-Engage* will also help to strengthen the partnership of community and university. It is a hope that 300,000 hours will be donated by faculty, staff, and students with an equal match from VT alumni. For more information, please contact www.engage.vt.edu
- Judy advised everyone the Staff Senate constituency report is available on the Senate website.
- The Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) is continuing to make progress with very intensive meetings. A selection committee is being formed to create the restructuring design teams.
- The Staff Senate National Initiative is still progressing.
- A *Staff Senate Preference Survey* is being prepared to determine individual interests and will be sent to all Senators shortly.
- The McCommas Leadership Seminar committee needs to elect a chair. A meeting will be called soon to begin work on the 2008 McCommas seminar.

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Vice President, Multicultural Affairs, described an *Inclusive Excellence Model* that he is forming at VT based upon a design by Damon Williams. This model will take the Diversity and Multicultural aspect and connect it with the University's excellence strategy. Damon Williams will be on campus November 9th, 2007 and talk about the model.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs offered to purchase "The Inclusion Breakthrough / Unleashing the Real Power of Diversity" book for senators that are interested in reading the book and participating in a discussion group. There were 25 requests for the book. The discussion group will meet on November 13th.

Ray Plaza passed out a sheet of paper that listed and described many ways for faculty and staff to get involved in diversity which included descriptions of various caucuses, college diversity committees, and governance commissions and committees. He talked about a group in his office, currently working on a plan to recruit and retain a more diverse staff. Christina Brogdon and David Travis are working with him on this process. He also described a staff diversity development group that selects, reads, and discusses books. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact Robin Atkins.

Dale Robinson, Conflict Resolution Program Manager of the Office of Equal Opportunity (EO), passed out information on harassment and discussed the Conflict Resolution Program offered through the EO Office. There was training for mediators in this program last year and the training will be offered again soon. For more information please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity www.oeo.vt.edu

Next meeting:

October 18, 2007

Speaker - Mr. James Hyatt

Respectfully Submitted,
Maxine Lyons, Staff Senate Secretary