

STAFF SENATE Minutes
1810 Litton Reaves Hall
Thursday, August 21, 2008
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Susan Archer, Shelby Cole, Linda Correll, Mike Cutlip, Carolyn Dudding, Jessie Eaves, Andy Fortin, Karen Hall, Tammy Henderson, Jennifer Hundley, Delbert Jones, Denise Jones, Lori Anne Kirk, Cindy Koziol, Rob Lowe, Maxine Lyons, Tom McAvoy, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Bradley Scott, Stephanie Snider, Tom Tucker, Hubert Walker, Jon Wooge, William Gibbs, Bruce Harper, Patricia Williams

Excused: Judy Alford, Bonnie Alberts, Ron Angert, Robin Atkins, Jean Brickey, Catherine Caldwell, Holly Carroll, Lisa Cotting, Travis Hundley, Joyce Landreth, Sue Teel, Chris Thomas, Geraldine Hollandsworth, Hannah Swiger, Lori Lee, Ken Wieringo

The meeting was called to order, agenda amended and approved, and minutes accepted.

Announcements:

BOV Update – Tom will discuss the department of Human Resources with the Board.

Sign-up sheet for Senate Committees was passed around.

Staff Senate National Conference Update – Maxine Lyons reported that the committee is looking into a CODA grant to assist with funding. The conference will take place the last week in May. The committee is working to gather contacts from other schools.

VT-Engage Update – Carolyn Dudding reported that the Blacksburg Food Pantry was the organization Staff Senate volunteered to assist last year. The staff Senate should consider if it would like to continue to assist the Blacksburg Food Pantry this year or to consider selecting a different organization. Carolyn also reported that Gobbler Fest will be occurring September 5th from 2pm-6pm. Gobbler Fest is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities.

Staff Representation - Tom Tucker read the names of participants and thanked them for volunteering.

Senate Committees - Tom Tucker passed around the sign-up sheets for Senate Committees.

VT Employees' Spouse and Dependant Scholarship Fund – Tom Tucker will discuss the importance of the fund with the Board of Visitors. It is important to increase the awareness of the fund. This is the fund's 8th year and it will be used to provide recipients a \$700 scholarship. Donations to the fund are tax deductible and can be set up using payroll deduction. A reception for scholarship recipients will be held in the Yorktown Room in Squires today. Additional information, please visit <http://www.vtdependscholar.vtdev.vt.edu/facstaff.html>.

Staff Senate Budget – Tom Tucker reported that HR has provided the Staff Senate with the same budget they received last year.

Annual Multicultural Affairs Luncheon – Tom Tucker reported that Multicultural Affairs was seeking the Staff Senates support for the Luncheon with a \$500 donation. The luncheon focuses on diversity and provides an opportunity for faculty and staff to mix and mingle in a diverse group. The Staff Senate has historically supported the Multicultural Affairs Luncheon with a \$500 donation. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the Staff Senate to support the Multicultural Affairs Luncheon. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the level of support to remain at \$500.

Program

Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation and Campus Services and Deborah Freed, Alternative Transportation Manager, spoke about alternative transportation options available at Virginia Tech. Available programs include the Bike, Bus, & Walk (BB&W) Program, the Faculty/Staff Carpool Program, and the VT Vanpool Program. The emergency ride home service is available to participants in the carpool and vanpool programs. It provides participants with a ride to their car or home in case of an emergency. For more information please see the website <http://facilities.vt.edu/ot/alternative/>.

Discussion Topics:

- It was also mentioned that Faculty and Staff can ride the BT for free by showing the Faculty/Staff ID when entering the bus. A portion of the parking tag fees goes to the BT to provide this service to faculty and staff.
- The use of paved parking lots for new buildings was discussed. The Office of Transportation charges \$3,000 per parking space lost to the capital project to recover costs of lost parking spaces. All paved parking lots close to buildings will eventually have buildings built on them. The 2006-2016 VT Master Plan can be viewed on the OUA Web site located at : <http://www.oua.vt.edu/masterplan/>.
- To compensate for the lost parking spaces, three parking garages (located at Perry Lot, Schultz Lot, & the Cage) will be built on campus. Construction on the Perry Lot garage is slated to start in January. It will contain 1,300 parking spaces and cost \$14,500 per parking space to build.
- It was mentioned that the cost of parking passes increased 20% this year. Steve stated that that type of increase should be expected for the next few years. As costs increase, the cost of parking passes will have to increase to cover those costs. There are several options for determining how the increased costs are distributed. The decision on which cost recovery structure is used will be a policy decision.
 - Use of a tier system where more expensive parking passes allow access to closer parking lots while less expensive parking passes allow access to parking lots further away.
 - Parking pass rates could be based on income. This option is rare but has been done at other places.
 - Across the board flat rate. This option is currently being used.
- The Hokie Express is designed to move people around campus. It stays on campus and runs in 8-10 minute intervals. It is also free to faculty and staff by showing your ID. The schedule can be found at <http://www.btransit.org/cms.php/routes>.
- Scooters are viewed as small motorcycles. They need to be parked in motorcycle parking spaces and have a motorcycle parking tag.

The Next meeting will be September 18, 2008, and the guest speaker will be Dr. Charles Steger, President of Virginia Tech. The meeting will be held at **1100 Torgersen Hall**.

With no more discussion the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary