

STAFF SENATE Minutes
1100 Torgersen Hall
Thursday, October 16, 2008
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Judy Alford, Susan Archer, Robin Atkins, Jim Baker, Jean Brickey, Lisa Cotting, Sue Ellen Crocker, Carolyne Dudding, Jessie Eaves, Geraldine Hollandsworth, Jennifer Hundley, Lori Ann Kirk, Cindy Koziol, Rob Lowe, Maxine Lyons, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Louellen Sharp, Leonard Vaughn

Excused: Catherine Caldwell, Holly Carroll, Velva Groover, Karen Hall, Travis Hundley, Joyce Landreth, Lori Lee

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

Announcements:

Staff Representation on University Council, Commissions & Committees – Tom Tucker read the names of people serving on University Council, Commissions & Committees as a way to recognize their contributions and to thank them for serving.

November Meeting Date – Tom Tucker announced that Kevin McDonald could not attend the meeting on November 20th. Dwight Shelton will attend the next Senate meeting to discuss the budget.

Community Service – Tom Tucker announced that the Christmas Store would be another organization the Staff Senate would support for VT Engage. Due to the current state of the economy the Christmas Store and Food Bank will be in greater demand. It is possible for staff to use their 16 hours of community service to work with either or both of these organizations. Tom sent out a flyer about the Christmas Store and their donation needs through email.

2008 ADA Access Honor Roll Award Program – Tom Tucker announced that staff is welcome to attend the 2008 ADA Access Honor Roll Award Program. He will send out a flyer about the program through email.

National Staff Leadership Conference Update – Maxine Lyons and Jean Brickey announced that the planning committee will meet on October 27th. They are in the process of gathering data from the email questionnaire that was distributed to staff.

VT Employees' Spouse and Dependant Scholarship Fund – Tom Tucker announced that it is possible to designate a contribution to the VT Employees' Spouse and Dependant Scholarship Fund to be placed in the endowment for the fund.

Budget – Tom Tucker announced that President Steger sent out a letter to the University community through email about the budget situation at Virginia Tech. Dwight Shelton will speak to the Staff Senate next month about the budget. The HR Service Center is available to take calls if there are any questions related to layoff concerns.

Program

Chief Wendell Flinchum of the Virginia Tech Police Department provided background on the Police Department and spoke about changes that have occurred at the department. The Police Department was established in 1945 and is nationally accredited. A new Deputy Chief, Tom Foster, has joined the Police Department. Chief Flinchum mentioned that it is important to keep in mind that when dialing 911 from a cell phone on campus that the caller is not connected to the VT Police Department. The call is directed to area police departments depending on which cell phone tower it is routed through. Therefore, it is important to let

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the responder know that the caller is on Tech's campus. It is also advisable to save VT Police Department's phone number (231-6411) in you cell phone so it can be accessed easily in an emergency. The Police Department offers motor assistance which will unlock car doors. The department is also available to lock and unlock buildings incase keys are left inside. The department offers safety checks and safety analysis to any campus unit or department. The department is working on several regional task forces and this helps the department build working relationships with other area police departments. The department's website can be used to make reports and to learn about their various programs. For more information please visit the VT Policy Department's website at <http://www.police.vt.edu>.

University Council, Commission, Committee Reports:

Employee Benefits Committee: Bonnie Alberts reported that the Committee is working to educate staff on retirement benefits available.

Commission on University Support: It was reported that the Commission is working on a policy that will move smoking areas 25 feet away from buildings. The policy will go through the governance process and BOV approval before going into effect.

The Next meeting will be November 20, 2008, and the guest speaker will be Mr. M. Dwight Shelton, Jr., Vice President for Budget and Financial Management & CFO. The meeting will be held at 1100 Torgersen Hall.

With no more discussion the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary