

STAFF SENATE Minutes
1100 Torgersen Hall
Thursday, November 20, 2008
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Judy Alford, Susan Archer, Robin Atkins, Jim Baker, Jean Brickey, Sarah Castle, Shelby Cole, Dan Cook, Lisa Cotting, Carlyne Dudding, Jessie Eaves, Carolyn Furrow, Laurie Good, Karen Hall, Tammy Henderson, Geraldine Hollandsworth, Jennifer Hundley, Travis Hundley, Delbert Jones, Denise Jones, Lori Ann Kirk, Cindy Koziol, Rob Lowe, Maxine Lyons, Tracy McCoy, Sharon Proffitt, Tal Roberts, Wyatt Sasser, Louellen Sharp, Stephanie Snider, Hannah Swiger, Sue Teel, Chris Thomas, Tom Tucker, Hubert Walker, Vicki Scarrat, Ken Wieringo, Jon Wooge, Barbara Moore, April Craig, Tricia Whitaker, Shirley Cline, Emily Quesenberry, Linda Terrill, Nina Wilburn, Sandra Ross, Dee Hezel, Denise Royal, Tamera Shepherd; Lori Greiner

Excused: Catherine Caldwell, Lori Lee

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

Announcements:

VT Engage/Community Service- Food Pantry & Christmas Store can food drive for the meeting was a success.

National Staff Leadership Conference Update – Maxine Lyons and Jean Brickey reported that they are working with a possible caterer for the event. This conference will occur in combination with the McComas Leadership Conference. The conference will be open to non-VT staff within a 300 mile radius, as a trial run for a larger National Staff Leadership Conference in the future. Non-VT staff will be charged a registration fee to attend.

Wellness Task Force – Tom Tucker announced that the Common Health program is being cut back. President Steger has put together a team to look into a wellness program for Virginia Tech and has asked the team to come up with recommendations by the spring.

December/January Meeting Dates – The possibility of a December Staff Senate meeting was discussed and approved. The December Staff Senate Meeting will occur on December 17th. The location of the meeting will be announced by email. The January Staff Senate meeting will occur on January 15, 2009. Dr. Kevin McDonald, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, will be the speaker. The meeting location will be announced through email.

Discussion of Proposed Winter Holiday Changes – Hal Irvin discussed the proposed Winter Holiday changes. The original proposal that involved moving four holidays that occur at the beginning of the year to the end of the year is no longer being considered. The new Winter Holiday proposal does not include additional time off for Faculty members, Lee-Jackson Day and Columbus Day will no longer be observed when they occur. Instead, staff will gain two floating holidays to make up for the two holidays lost. The floating holidays must be used within the calendar year in which they occur. They cannot be carried forward to the next calendar year. If approved, this policy will be implemented beginning January 2009.

Program

M. Dwight Shelton, Jr., Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer provided an overview of the Virginia Tech Budget, State revenue shortfalls, and their impact to Virginia Tech. Areas that receive General Fund money and Education and General (E&G) funds are being affected the most by the budget cuts because those funds come from the State. Agency 229, which is the Cooperative Extension/Agriculture Experiment Station Division of the University, has also been largely impacted by the cuts because they receive a lot of funding from the State. Virginia Tech's operating budget is approximately \$1.2 billion and 26.2% of the budget comes from the State. To date there have been three rounds of budget cuts and a fourth round is expected to be announced toward the end of December. During the first round of budget cuts, Virginia Tech had a 5% budget reduction. Tech was able to handle some of the cuts centrally and asked units to provide a one-time cash equivalent of 2.5% of their budget to cover the remainder of the reduction. The state did not cut higher education funding during the second round of budget cuts. During the third round of budget cuts, units saw a permanent base reduction of 3.5 % and Deans and Vice Presidents have been asked to submit plans to reduce their current operating budgets by 1.5%. With a possible fourth round of budget cuts, Deans and Vice Presidents have been asked to submit plans for 3% and 5% reductions because more shortfalls are expected at the State. A copy of the Budget Update presentation was sent to the Staff Senate listserv by Tom Tucker.

The Next meeting will be December 17, 2008. The speaker and meeting location are TBD. Tom Tucker will send out an email when they have been determined.

With no more discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary