

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Drillfield Room, Inn at Virginia Tech
Thursday, February 19, 2009
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Susan Archer, Robin Atkins, Jim Baker, Jean Brickey, Catherine Caldwell, Sarah Castle, Dan Cook, Carolynne Dudding, Reba Crawford, Mike Cutlip, Lori Greiner, Karen Hall, Geraldine Hollandsworth, Jennifer Hundley, Travis Hundley, Denise Jones, Lori Anne Kirk, Lori Lee, Tom McAvoy, Tracy McCoy, Robin McMall-Miller, Wyatt Sasser, Bradley Scott, Louellen Sharp, Lauren Ritter, Sue Teel, Tom Tucker, Hubert Walker, Kimberly Avis, Richard Charles

Excused: Jane Rorrer, Judy Alford, Sue Ellen Crocker, Cindy Koziol, Maxine Lyons, Ken Wieringo, Jon Wooge

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

Announcements:

VT Engage – Karen Gilbert reported that a new Center for Student Engagement and Community Partnerships was established in October 2008. The Center's mission is to coordinate and strengthen partnerships between the University and the community, enhance service and experiential learning activities, and develop increased capacity for engagement. The Center is seeking staff representatives for its four steering committee areas. One area is VT Engage and its four work group: University Involvement, Special Events, Public Relations, and Service Venues-Community Partnerships. The other three steering committee areas are Engaged Community Partners, Engaged Learning, and Engaged Student Leadership. If anyone is interested in serving on one of the steering committees please contact Karen at engage@vt.edu.

Budget – Tom Tucker reported that Town Hall meetings on the budget were held on Tuesday and Wednesday. The cumulative effects of the budget reductions to Virginia Tech have been a 20.9% reduction in State support for the University. In addition, it was reported that the State's revenue projections were reduced by an additional \$821.5 million to bring the State's budget shortfall from \$2.9 billion to \$3.7 billion. The presentation can be found at the link below.
<http://www.president.vt.edu/documents/2009-02-17-town-hall.pdf>.

Wellness Task Force – Tom Tucker reported that the wellness task force survey had a response rate of 37% from staff. Many participants included written comments and suggestions. The survey results will be used to determine the types of programs that will be offered through the wellness program.

Elections – Tom Tucker reported that Jon Wooge has sent out a request for nominations for University Council, Commissions, and Committee participation.

Future Meeting Dates/Locations – Tom Tucker reported that most of the meeting will return to Torgersen Hall. April's meeting occurs on April 16th and it must be decided if that meeting date will be moved or if the meeting for the month of April should be canceled.

Program:

Michael Coleman, Associate Vice President for Facilities, gave a very informative presentation on sustainability and energy conservation at Virginia Tech. His presentation covered VT's climate commitment, Policy 5505, VT's energy profile, conservation initiative, and the early results of those initiatives. The Energy and Sustainability Committee is working to draft a climate plan for VT. That committee's goal is to have a climate plan resolution go through the university governance system before the end of the 2009 spring semester. Policy 5505 acts as a guide for the university to achieve the highest standards in energy and water usage with consideration of the impact on environmental quality and economic performance. The policy can be found at <http://www.policies.vt.edu/5505.pdf>. This policy sets the normal temperature targets of occupied facilities at 68°F in the winter and 74°F in the summer. Virginia Tech's electricity cost has increased 54% in four years and the two leading contributors of green house gases for the university are electricity and coal. Virginia Tech is working to select an Energy Saving Contractor that would guarantee energy savings for the university. Proposals from the contractors are due in March. A copy of Mr. Coleman's presentation can be found by going to the following link and clicking on update within the sustainability and energy conservation section. <http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/>

The Next meeting will be March 19, 2009. The speaker has not been determined but will be announced as soon as possible. The meeting will be held at 1100 Torgersen Hall.

With no more discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary