

STAFF SENATE Minutes
1100 Torgersen Hall
Thursday, March 19, 2009
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Ron Angert, Susan Archer, Robin Atkins, Jim Baker, Jean Brickey, Dan Cook, Mike Cutlip,Carolyn Dudding, Carolyn Furrow, Lori Greiner, Karen Hall, Geraldine Hollandsworth, Jennifer Hundley, Denise Jones, Denise Jones, Cindy Koziol, Lori Lee, Maxine Lyons, Tom McAvoy, Tim McCoy, Robin McMall-Miller, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Bradley Scott, Louellen Sharp, Chris Thomas, Tom Tucker, Hubert Walker, Vicki Scarrat, Ken Wieringo, Jane Rorrer, Shelly Key, Michelle Gamanske, Joseph Goodman

Excused: Judy Alford, Shelby Cole, Lisa Cotting, Sue Ellen Crocker, Travis Hundley, Lori Anne Kirk, Sue Teel, Jon Wooge

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

Announcements:

Elections – Bradley Scott reported that nominations are closed except for three positions that do not have any nominations. The remaining vacancies are Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, Commission on Faculty Affairs, and Parliamentarian. Elections will be held mid-next week and voting will last a week.

VT Engage – Tom Tucker reported that the food bank is requesting jars of peanut butter. Robin Atkins will deliver the peanut butter collected to the food bank and jars can be brought to her office at Collegiate Square.

Wellness Task Force – Tom Tucker reported that the wellness task force is working to determine the cost of maintaining the program and the cost of programs that produce results for participants. The goal is to have 40% participation in the wellness programs.

Staff Appreciation Day – Tom Tucker reported that Staff Appreciation Day will be held May 20th and the activities are still being planned. One option being considered is a Hokie Idol competition.

McComas Staff Leadership Seminar – Tom Tucker reported that the McComas Staff Leadership Seminar will be held May 7th. The planning committee is working on selecting speakers and a planning meeting will be held March 23rd at Robin Atkins office.

Staff Leadership Awards – Tom Tucker requests that nomination for individuals to receive the award be put forward. Tom will send an email regarding the Staff Leadership Awards.

Next Meeting – The meeting which would normally have occurred on April 16th has been moved to April 23rd. The meeting will be held at 1100 Torgersen Hall.

Holiday Leave - The Holiday Leave policy will be discussed at the April meeting.

Program:

Dr. Robert Jones, Department Head for Biological Sciences, gave a very informative presentation on Virginia Tech's SACS Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) is the accrediting body for Virginia Tech. To meet SACS reaffirmation requirements, the University must develop and implement a 5-year Quality Enhancement Plan. The plan must align with the University's mission and strategic plan, as well as produce measurable results of increased student learning. The QEP's three main goals are to encourage thoughtful academic planning, enhance research skills, and to build intercultural knowledge and understanding. Additional information on SACS Reaffirmation and the Quality Enhancement Plan can be found at <http://www.sacs.vt.edu/>.

Dr. Susanna Rinehart, Direction of Education for Diversity and Inclusion, gave a very informative presentation on the Office of Education for Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Rinehart welcomes thoughts on diversity issues at the University. The new Office will work on education needs regarding diversity and inclusion for faculty, staff, and students. Work is being done to develop an updated diversity strategic plan and to create a process model for institutional growth with regards to diversity and inclusion. Additional information about the Office of Equity and Inclusion and the Office of Education for Diversity and Inclusion can be found at <http://www.oei.vt.edu/>.

The Next meeting will be **April 23, 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