

Staff Senate Minutes
May 21, 2009

Senators Present: Jean Brickey, Cindy Koziol, Carolyn Dudding, Robin Atkins, Catherine Caldwell, Joseph Goodman, Tracy McCoy, Karen Hall, Lisa Cotting, Jon Wooge, Dennie Munson, Ken Wieringo, Wyatt Sasser, Rob Lowe, Susan Archer, Laurie Good, Chris Thomas, Judy Alford, Bonnie Alberts, Lori Greiner, Sue Teel, Carolyn Furrow, Melissa Simpkins, Hubert Walker, Tom Tucker

Excused: Cindy Booth, Jennifer Hundley, Travis Hundley, Lori Lee, Robin McMall-Miller, Becky Saylor, Bradley Scott,

The Staff Senate met in the Cascades room at the Inn from Noon until 1:10 PM.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda.

The Budget Planning meeting was held April 30th and the budget approved. Stimulus money along with raised tuition made it possible for the University to pass along only a 5% reduction to departments.

There is a tax relief for items related to hurricane preparedness, that can be viewed at www.tax.virginia.gov/salestaxholiday

VT Engage will meet tomorrow, May 22nd. Susanna Rinehart and her daughter, Chloe, are participating in a mother/daughter look-alike contest to win a Kroger gift card for a family that has lost their home and belongs to a fire. Everyone is being asked to vote for them to support this cause.

There was no guest speaker for this meeting, so members were given time to bring forward subjects of interest to the staff.

In regard to the Staff Appreciation day, the membership offered suggestions and comments to compliment or help improve the event for next year. Two members of the Staff Appreciation Day planning committee were in attendance and will take the suggestions back and present at the next planning meeting. Suggestions were:

- Tours should have better signage
- Should supply diabetic desserts along with regular desserts
- Should provide a food line for diabetics such as the vegan line
- Should keep the food supply full as long as there are people in line to get their food
- The Hokie Idol was great
- Should continue the bingo and other entertainment past 1:30
- The committee should create a survey to see how and what the staff enjoyed and/or suggestions for changing in the future.

The Violence Prevention Committee has prepared a draft statement to be sent to various groups for review and input, but will put distribution on hold until the new position of Threat Prevention Specialist has been filled. Virginia Code requires that the University have a Threat Assessment Team.

The Wellness Task Force report was sent electronically. Dr. Steger has allotted \$157,000 in support of this.

McComas will have a debriefing meeting on June 4th to review how to make the event better next year.

CSPA needs a representative from an Academic area/department.

Lauren Ritter is the new CPFA representative.

The winter closing issue was discussed to see if there was enough interest in pursuing a resolution to change the existing Policy 4315. It was decided that the proposed resolution for closing the University would be sent to all Senators for review and then a vote of support be asked for, to see if the majority of Senators would support bringing the resolution forward to the CSPA. If there is enough interest then a survey/vote would be sent to all staff in the University.

The next Senate meeting will be June 18th in Room F of the Graduate Life Center. Maggie Sloane will be the speaker for this meeting.

The July meeting will be in the Cascades Room of the Inn on July 16th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maxine Lyons, Vice President
(substituting for Secretary, Jennifer Hundley)