

Staff Senate Minutes
The Inn at Virginia Tech, Cascades Room
Thursday, July 16, 2009
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending:

Judy Alford, Susan Archer, Robin Atkins, Jim Baker, Jean Brickey, Dan Cook, Carlyne Dudding, Joseph K. Goodman, Delbert Jones, Lori Lee, Maxine Lyons, Robin Miller, J Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Robert Sebek, Louellen Sharp, Ashley Staum, Sue Teel, Tom Tucker

Excused: Karen Hall, Jessie Eaves, Ken Wieringo, Lisa Cotting, Jennifer, Hundley, Lori Anne Kirk

Tom Tucker called the meeting to order, the agenda was approved with an addition, and the minutes were electronically approved.

Drew LaPointe, an MBA intern with the Human Resources department, is focusing on improving internal communications at Tech, and he announced that he would like to form a focus group gather information on how communication is currently working and on how it can be improved.

VT Engage needs volunteers for Goblerfest, August 28th, from 2PM until midnight. A flyer will be emailed to VT staff with details.

Violence Prevention Committee is looking for input on what people would like for the committee to focus on this year. This committee was formed to review policy related to the Threat Assessment Team. State Law requires that all state institutions are required to have a Threat Assessment Team. One of the key items the Violence Prevention Committee has been working to develop is a structured communication plan which would allow individuals to report suspect behavior prior to the need for emergency call to the police. If a person with non-acceptable behaviors can be identified prior to possibly becoming violent the proper agency or department can be called to assist. One example would be that a councilor can be called in assist a person under a great deal of stress. There are also initiatives being developed to make security systems consistent throughout the university. These might include but are not limited to surveillance cameras and video systems, swipe cards, bio-metric entry systems, key control, etc. The committee is looking for more ideas to make communications better and more efficient.

A vote of support for the change to Policy and 1025 was passed with one opposed.

The SGA wants to work more closely with staff and express appreciation to the staff, for the work that they do. SGA is planning a send a thank you card program. Students would send a thank you card to staff member(s) of their choosing to recognize help they have received from staff. A Director or Faculty/Staff Outreach position has been created within the SGA to organize and promote student activities that relate to student interaction with faculty and staff.

A CLAHSSA flyer request for school supplies to be donated to local schools in need, will be distributed by email to all staff.

Richmond Times Dispatch ran an article about the VA Retirement System losing value. It was noted that the article appeared in the Roanoke Times as well.

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Committee sign-up sheet was passed around and the volunteers are:

McComas Leadership Committee:

Robin Atkins
Carolyn Dudding
Sue Teel

Nominations Committee:

Becky Saylor
Bradley Scott

Communications

Jean Brickey
Robert Sebek
Louellen Sharp
Lori Greiner
Robin Miller

Policy & Issues

Delbert Jones
Judy Alford
Wyatt Sasser
Dan Cook
Susan Archer

Lynette Cruise was the guest speaker so she reported the changes for short term disability that will affect people who were hired since July 1, 2009. For information on these changes and/or any other information on short term disability, please email persev@vt.edu, or call 231-9331. The printed revised VSDP handbook will not be available until October, but the online version can be found at <http://www.varetire.org?Pdf/Publications/VSDPhdbk.pdf>

No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05

Respectfully submitted
Maxine Lyons, Vice President,