

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Donaldson Brown GLC, Meeting Room B
Thursday, September 17, 2009
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Becky Saylor, Bradley Scott, Jennifer Hundley, Lauren Ritter, Tami Watson, Lori Greiner, Velva Groover, Karen Hall, Pat Williams, Jon Wooge, Due Teel, Maxine Lyons, Carlyne Dudding, Chris Sokol, Susan Archer, Vanessa Law, Rhonda Hawley, Judy Taylor, Louellen Sharp, Robin Atkins, Ken Wieringo, Jean Brickey, Robert Sebek, Tracy McCoy, Bonnie Alberts, Robin McMall-Miller, Stella Price, Tom Tucker, Catherine Caldwell, Carolyn Furrow, Joseph Goodman, Erika Perdue, Trish Glosch, Kenneth Shrewsberry, Neim Eaves, Brenda Husser, Geneva Watson, Ellen Agee, Margie Sentelle, Tara Jones, Tammy Quesenberry, Christine Snider, Jennifer Hanvatty, R. Andy Fruel, Lisa Mahaney, Kimberly Dodson, Reba Crawford, Melissa Simpkins, Dennis Herron, Travis Hundley, Wane Wills,

Excused: Judy Alford, Dan Cook, Lori Lee, Lori Anne Kirk

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

Announcements:

VT Engage – Tom Tucker reported that an organization needs to be selected for this year's VT Engage project. Possible projects are being considered and a hand out will be sent on the listserve.

Violence Prevention Committee – Tom Tucker reported that Gene Deisinger will talk at the December Staff Senate meeting about the committee and how to get involved.

Wellness Task Force – Tom Tucker reported that the President has requested an on-going committee discuss wellness issues. A Staff Senate representative is needed to serve on the committee. If interested, please contact Tom Tucker.

Benefits Fair – Tom Tucker reported that the Benefits Fair will be held October 13th, in Squires.

Multicultural Luncheon – Tom Tucker reported that the Staff Senate was requested to provide support for the Luncheon held September 25th. Staff Senate voted to provide \$300 of support for the Multicultural Luncheon.

Staff Senate Budget – Tom Tucker reported that the Staff Senate's budget was cut 5% due to budget reductions. The removal of the phone line for the Staff Senate helped absorb the budget cut allowing program funding to remain intact.

Program:

Hal Irvin, the Associate Vice President for Human Resources, gave a very informative presentation on budget issues related to staff furloughs and retirement fund changes. The State has proposed a furlough day of May 28, 2010 for all State agencies. However, there may be some flexibility with the date and Tech may be able to select a day that would better fit the academic schedule. The furlough day would apply to all employees regardless of status as faculty or staff. The State will reduce contributions to all state employee retirement programs from April 2010 through June 2010. However, employees can continue to contribute to their own retirement during that period. Currently the State contributes the 5% employee share of an employee's annual salary into VRS. The State is considering phasing in a two percent pretax salary contribution from employees into VRS. Changes to the retirement system will require approval by the General Assembly.

The Next meeting will be **October 15, 2009**. The speaker will be President Steger. The meeting will be held at 1100 Torgersen Hall.

Amended Minutes – Due to schedule change, the October program will be a presentation on IT Security. President Steger is expected to be the speaker at the November 19, 2009 meeting.

With no more discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary

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