

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Donaldson Brown, Meeting Room B
Thursday, February 18, 2010
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Becky Saylor, Scott Bradley, Jennifer Hundley, Lori Greiner, Velve Groover, Tim McCoy, Pat Williams, Jon Wooge, Sue Teel, Maxine Lyons, Carolyne Dudding, Anna Hawthorne, Judy Taylor, Delbert Jones, Robin Atkins, Kenneth Shrewsbury, Ken Wieringo, Jean Brickey, Robert Sebek, Denise Jones, Bonnie Alberts, Andy French, Jim Baker, Stella Price, Tom Tucker, Carolyn Furrow, Joseph Goodman, Wyatt Sasser, Hal Irvin, Alan Moeller, Valerie Pegues

Excused: Karen Hall, Susan Archer, Vanessa Law, Judy Alford, Lori Anne Kirk

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

Announcements:

Commission on University Studies and Policies (CUSP) - Tom Tucker reported that a replacement is needed for the Commission on University Studies and Policies. The representative must be either a senator or an alternate. If interested, please contact Tom by email.

Senate Elections – Jon Wooge reported that elections the call for nominations of candidates is underway and will close March 15. Elections will be held at the end of March. Nominations are still needed for the Academic Support Committee, the Commission on Research, and the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs.

VT Engage – Robin Atkins reported that canned corn and canned vegetables are currently needed by the food pantry.

Employee Dependent Scholarship – Bonnie Alberts reported that the current balance of the Employee Dependent Scholarship is \$4,500. The balance will used to fund scholarships for the next academic year. March 1st is the deadline for the scholarship and the scholarship recipients and scholarship amount will be determined March 25th.

Budget – Tom Tucker reported that the Governor sent an email to state employees on February 17th that provided details on some of his proposals for the State's biennial budget. The Governor's recommendations can be found at http://www.governor.virginia.gov/docs/10-02-17_Gov_Recs.pdf. It is possible to contact your state representative with concerns about the state budget. Local representatives can be looked up by going to the following link: <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>.

Proposed Holiday Policy Change - The proposed holiday policy change keeps the current holiday schedule in place. Staff would be responsible for ensuring they have enough leave available to take the winter break days off, if their office decides to close. New staff starting in July 9th or the following months would receive 32 hours of personal leave, which is the same amount of personal leave received by employees hired prior to July 9th, to ensure they would not be placed in a leave without pay situation. The holiday policy change would essentially change the current wording from the University is open and department heads may choose to close their offices; to the University is closed and department heads may choose to keep their offices open during that time. Changes for staff would mean instead of asking their supervisors to take that time off, staff would need to request permission to work during that time. If approved, the policy change would become effective January 2011. A vote of confidence was approved for the proposed holiday policy change.

Program:

Hal Irvin, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, gave a very informative presentation on the results of the employment climate survey. The survey was conducted by the Virginia Tech Center for Survey Research and did not include teaching faculty because they were surveyed in 2008. The employment climate survey will be conducted every two years and the next survey will include both staff and teaching faculty. The survey showed that employees felt that Virginia Tech was a good place to work but that employee morale was low. Additional information on the climate survey can be found in the latest edition of Hal's Corner located at <http://www.hr.vt.edu/halscorner/index.html>.

The Next meeting will be **March 18, 2010**. The speaker has not been determined. The meeting locations will be Torgersen Hall, Room 1100.

With no more discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary

Staff Senate Minutes
January 2010