

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Torgersen Hall, Room 1100
Thursday, March 18, 2010
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Becky Saylor, Scott Bradley, Jennifer Hundley, Lori Greiner, Velva Groover, Pat Williams, Sue Teel, Maxine Lyons, Carlyne Dudding, Karen Nicholson, Susan Archer, Anna Hawthorne, Vanessa Law, Delbert Jones, Kenneth Shrewsbury, Louellen Sharp, Albert Moore, Dan Cook, Ken Wieringo, Jean Brickey, Lisa Mahaney, Bonnie Alberts, Andy French, Robin McMall-Miller, Lori Anne Kirk, Wyatt Sasser, Hal Irvin, Jennifer Hanratty, Tom Tucker

Excused: Vickie Scarrat, Robin Atkins, Judy Alford, Robert Sebek, Lori Lee

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

Announcements:

Big Event – Nathan Lavinka reported that the Big Event will be held April 17, 2010 with teams meeting on the Drillfield. The Big Event performs service projects in the New River Valley. It is a four hour commitment and there are ten people per team, volunteers can request a team or be placed on a team. Volunteers are provided the tools necessary to complete their service project. To sign up as a volunteer or for additional information please visit <http://www.vtbigevent.org>.

Senate Elections – Tom Tucker reported that biography forms were sent to nominees and elections will be held the last week in March. There are nominees for all councils, commissions, and committees. There are still openings for the Senate Vice President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian positions.

VT Engage – Tom Tucker reported that there was a good response for the canned bean drive for the food pantry. Another food drive will be held in April for the Food Pantry.

Staff Appreciation Day – Tom Tucker reported that Staff Appreciation Day will be held May 19th. Planning has started and anticipated activities include Hokie Idol and various tours.

Proposed Holiday Policy Change – Tom Tucker reported that the proposed Holiday Policy change had its first reading at University Council and the second reading should occur at the next University Council meeting.

Update on State HR Items – Hal Irvin reported that the furlough day is still in effect for this fiscal year. However, the furlough days recommended for the next biennium are no longer being considered. The budget bill also provides higher education with discretion on how to handle the furlough day. The budget bill contains a three percent bonus in December if State revenue exceeds current revenue projections by \$82 million. The bonus will be prorated if revenue does not exceed \$82 million. Existing employees will not have to contribute to their retirement. However, new employees will have to contribute five percent to their retirement. The cash match amount for next fiscal year has been reduced by half and full funding will return the following fiscal year. Additional information on the 2010 General Assembly session can be found at <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2010&itemno=191>.

Program:

Dr. Richard Horwitz, Outreach Coordinator for Emergency Management, provided an informative discussion on the Department of Education's Higher Education Emergency Management Grant received by Virginia Tech. The grant focuses on fostering a culture of preparedness at the institution. Emergency preparedness allows information to be prepared in a format that is easier to use, helps people value safety, and supports the concept that safety is the responsibility of everyone in the community. The discussion identified basic office safety and training at the departmental level as valuable ways to prepare for an emergency. Additional information can be found at <http://www.emergency.vt.edu>.

The Next meeting will be **April 15, 2010**. The tentative speaker is Laura Fornash, Director of State Government Relations. The meeting locations will be Torgersen Hall, Room 1100.

With no more discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary

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