

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Torgersen Hall, Room 1100
Thursday, April 15, 2010
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Scott Bradley, Jennifer Hundley, Pat Williams, Jon Wooge, Sue Teel, Hannah Swiger, Maxine Lyons, Carlyne Dudding, Susan Archer, Anna Hawthorne, Delbert Jones, Louellen Sharp, Robin Atkins, Dan Cook, Ken Wieringo, Jean Brickey, Robert Sebek, Tracy McCoy, Denise Jones, Bonnie Alberts, Lisa Cotting, Stella Price, Tom Tucker, Carolyn Furrow, Joseph Goodman, Hal Irvin, Travis Hundley, Paula Van Curen, Heather Baldwin

Excused: Lori Greiner, Velva Groover, Karen Hall, Jessie Eaves, Judy Alford, Jim Baker, Lori Anne Kirk

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

Announcements:

Senate Elections – Jon Wooge reported that the elections for commissions, committees, and council are complete. Elections for Staff Senate Officers will be held soon. Senate Officers must be either a Senator or an alternate.

VT Engage – Tom Tucker reported that there was a bench dedication today, April 15th at 4:00. The Haitian Ambassador will receive a quilt from Virginia Tech. A canned food drive was held 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 second reading at the University Council meeting and will go before the Board of Visitors at their June meeting

Dependent Scholarship Fund – Bonnie Alberts reported that the Dependent Scholarship Fund awarded scholarships to 24 applicants for a total award of \$350 per student. The scholarship amount will be adjusted based on the number of students accepting admission to Virginia Tech. A reception will be held August 19th in Squires for the scholarship recipients.

Program:

Tim Hodge, University Budget Director, provided a very informative presentation on the Legislative session and the State Budget as related to Virginia Tech employees. The State's legislative session begins in mid-December with the executive budget, which is the basis for all proposed changes. The House and Senate release their budget proposals in January and the two budget proposals are reconciled during conference committee in February. The Governor can recommend amendments to the legislation that comes out of the conference committee. The University received \$20.8 million in Federal stimulus funds to help offset the State budget reduction for fiscal year 2011. The maintenance of effort requirement established to qualify for Federal Stimulus funds will be removed in fiscal year 2012. The savings to the state that was to be achieved by the furlough day in effect for this fiscal year will be achieved by the university through "alternative means". 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 fiscal year 2011 has been reduced by half and full funding will return in following fiscal year 2012. Additional information on the 2010 General Assemble session can be found at <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2010&itemno=191>.

The Next meeting will be **May 20, 2010**. The speaker will be Steve Mouras, Director of Transportation and Campus Services. The meeting locations will be Torgersen Hall, Room 1100.

With no more discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Hundley
Senate Secretary