

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Torgersen Hall Room 1100 (Museum)
Thursday, October 21, 2010
12:00 noon – 1:00 P.M.

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Susan Archer, Jean Brickey, Dan Cook, Carolyne Dudding, Amy Eagan, Velva Groover, Amanda Grose, Jennifer Hanratty, Julia Hurley, Hal Irwin, Delbert Jones, Denise Jones, Lori Anne Kirk, Tracy McCoy, Albert Moore, Steve Myers, Karen Nicholson, Heather Baldwin Patel, Keisha Riley, Becky Saylor, Bradley Scott, Robert Sebek, Louellen Sharp, Sue Teel, Tom Tucker, & Jon Wooge

Excused: Maxine Lyons, Ken Wieringo, and Patricia Williams.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Sue Teel. The minutes were accepted as electronically approved, and the agenda was adopted without change.

Announcements:

Proposals regarding the future of the **Commission on University Support** were discussed by Brad Scott, current Staff Senate representative to that Commission. The first reading of the proposal is scheduled for the afternoon of October 21. The choices are as follows: 1.) disband the Commission on University Support; or 2.) put the commission into hibernation mode until it is needed again. Jean Brickey moved that the Staff Senate ask that the Commission stay active, and the motion was seconded by Tom Tucker. Lori Anne Kirk proposed a “friendly amendment” to Brickey’s motion: that the Staff Senate asks that the Commission remain in active status, cancelling meetings as needed when there are no agenda items to discuss. The motion was approved as amended, and Brad Scott was asked to raise the issue at the afternoon meeting. This will be the last meeting of the Commission on University Support that Brad Scott can attend.

The question of **Staff Senate representative eligibility to serve as commission chair or vice-chair** was brought up by Delbert Jones. The Commission on Research, on which Delbert sits, had been operating on the understanding that staff senators could not serve in that capacity. When Pat Hyer was asked about this policy/practice, she said that the only restrictions are no students, no one-year appointments, and no ex-officio commission members may serve as chair or vice-chair. Senators serve on three-year terms, so there should be no restrictions against them being elected chair or vice-chair.

Carolyne Dudding announced that she had received an e-mail notice regarding the **restructuring of VT Engage**. There is an effort to involve more students, and Carolyne does not know if she, or any other senator, will be involved in the future. She will let us know what she learns as the restructuring takes place.

Program: Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Dr. Jack Finney outlined for the Senate his responsibilities within the Office of the Provost. Ken Smith deals with money and space, while Dr. Finney is responsible for the 3,132 faculty people. He has increased the university’s focus on faculty development. Among the efforts toward this goal are an orientation for new faculty, implementation of the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, new Department Head leadership orientation, Advance VT, communication of Promotion and Tenure expectations and standards, mentoring faculty, senior management reviews, a pipeline initiative to identify future faculty, and serve as Board of Visitors policies liaison. Two areas of responsibility for this position include Faculty Policies and Procedures, governance through the Faculty Senate and the Staff Senate, the Faculty Handbook, and hiring and retention practices. Dr. Finney also gave us a brief description of some of the programs, initiatives, and individuals involved with each of his areas of focus and responded to questions from the floor.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, November 18. Location and guest speaker have not been finalized.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Archer
Senate Secretary