

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Torgersen Hall Room 1100 (Museum)
Thursday, November 18, 2010
12:00 noon – 1:00 P.M.

Attending: Susan Archer, Jean Brickey, Karen Hall, Jennifer Hanratty, Anna Hawthorne, Denise Jones, Maxine Lyons, Tracy McCoy, Albert Moore, Heather Baldwin Patel, Wyatt Sasser, Robert Sebek, Llyn Sharp, Louellen Sharp, Judy Taylor, Sue Teel, Tom Tucker, Ken Wieringo, Patricia Williams, and Jon Wooge

Excused: Bonnie Alberts, Judy Alford, Carolyne Dudding, Velva Groover, Lori Anne Kirk, and Becky Saylor.

Opening: President Maxine Lyons called the meeting to order. The minutes were accepted as electronically approved with the addition of Bonnie Alberts' correction regarding the Employee's Spouse and Dependent Scholarship reception held in Squires August 19. "There were 14 applicants for 2010, and each received \$400 for a total of \$5,600. Bonnie also encouraged all senators to participate in this worthy scholarship effort." The agenda was adopted without change.

Staff Senate President Lyons raised the question of whether or not to hold the December 16 meeting. After a short discussion of the pros and cons, as well as potential conflicts, Wyatt Sasser moved that the meeting be cancelled. His motion was seconded by Ken Wieringo, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Announcements:

Information about Micah's Back Pack service project can be found on the Staff Senate web page.

Board of Visitors has asked that each College and School be evaluated like a report card, particularly related to their performance on the budget and strategic planning. The Governor has asked for an additional 2.46% spending reduction, but the departments will not be asked to make these cuts: they will be generated internally.

Maxine Lyons updated senators on her hopes of effecting a more equal distribution of Parking Pass Charges. The University administration is aware of staff concerns, and the Faculty Senate has expressed mixed reactions to the possibility of changing the current pricing structure.

Standing Committee Reports:

Communications Committee gave a constituency report.

Elections and Nominations Committee will meet in early December to lay out the possible slate of officers for the 2011 election.

McComas Leadership Seminar Planning Committee is trying to schedule a meeting in early December.

Policies and Issues Committee is discussing Policy 1025 on harassment.

Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity is scheduled to meet on Friday, November 19.

Proposals regarding the future of the Commission on University Support did not come up in University Council.

New Business:

Wyatt Sasser raised the rumor that the Parking and Transportation Committee would like to see a payroll increase of \$100 per person to cover the increased cost of the parking pass. He had also been told that the Administration would not approve that "solution". Tom Tucker suggested that they find someone else who can talk with us more about this issue. Maxine Lyons indicated that Dr. Steger is scheduled to speak at the March Staff Senate meeting.

Ken Wieringo inquired about the Staff Senate web master and to whom should questions or concerns be addressed. Jean Brickey told him to e-mail problems to her and copy Robert Sebeck with those messages.

Louellen Sharp asked about the tax rate to be charged on the 2010 one-time bonus. Maxine Lyons confirmed that it will be taxed at the same rate as our regular pay, not as a bonus.

Maxine Lyons updated senators on her hopes of effecting a more equal distribution of Parking Pass Charges. The University administration is aware of staff concerns, and the Faculty Senate has expressed mixed reactions to the possibility of changing the current pricing structure.

Program: Cynthia Rutherford, the new Health and Wellness Director, came to introduce herself and generate an open dialogue about the VT Health and Wellness Program, a program for all. War Memorial Gym is generally for adult use, whereas McComas is designated for students. Personal trainers are available for a fee in War Memorial. The Health and Wellness Program also offers on-site workplace programs as well as making flu shots available on campus for staff and their family members. The Great American Smoke Out, Free and Clear, and Weight Watchers are programs that are offered at various locations and times on campus, with a negotiated discount for state employees. Mom and Me is a new program for staff and faculty in their first trimester of pregnancy. Participants will have their hospital deductible waived as an incentive for participating.

Several senators raised the concern about the heat stress involved with working out in War Memorial. At present there are no other sites, but Ms. Rutherford is aware of the problem and is working to find a solution with the building.

maintenance crew. Ms Rutherford closed by inviting senators to address future questions and suggestions to her directly at cyn07@vt.edu or by telephoning 231-3663.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be the third Thursday in January. Location and guest speaker have not been finalized.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Archer
Senate Secretary