

STAFF SENATE Minutes
Randolph Hall, Room 117A, Thursday, April 19, 2012
12:00 noon – 1:00 P.M.

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Susan Archer, Dan Cook, Velve Groover, Robena Hughes, Denise Jones, Shelly Key, Lori Lee, Maxine Lyons, Karen Nicholson, Allison Rubio, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Robert Sebeck, Sue Teel, Leslie Thornton-O'Brien, Tom Tucker, Elizabeth Visser, Beverly Williams, Patricia Williams, and Jon Wooge.

Excused: Judy Alford and Ken Wieringo

Guests: via telecom with Room 401 at the Northern Virginia Center in the National Capital Region: Charmaine Carter, Assistant to the Master of Business Administration Director, National Capital Region; Debbie Cash, Library Coordinator, Northern Virginia Center; Michele Eldredge, Senior Secretary, Human Development; Jessica Loving, Assistant to the Executive Director, Executive Master of Business Administration Program; Sharon White, Administrative Assistant

Opening: President Maxine Lyons called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM, as we awaited the telephone call to set up the polycorn meeting to include representatives from the Northern Virginia Center. Minutes were approved electronically and the agenda was approved as amended to reflect a change in speakers. Laura Neff-Henderson, Communications Manager for Human Resources, could not attend or present due to her recent hospitalization. In her stead Mekeisha Williams, Executive Director of Organizational and Professional Development, presented a summary of the 2011 Virginia Tech Employment climate Survey.

Announcements: President Lyons thanked Robert Sebek for the good job done by Communications Committee's launch of the new Staff Senate web site. She also reminded commission representatives that the June meeting will consist of reports and updates on what has been accomplished by their commission and what is planned for next year. Jon Wooge reported that the Elections and Nominations Committee has tallied the results of the election and has sent the results to the President's office. Leslie Thornton-O'Brien gave a brief outline of the James D. McComas Staff Leadership Seminar and reported that 90 out of the 100 seats have been filled. She also reported that keynote speaker Jim Bassett was bringing his own IT support, and that a reporter from the Roanoke Times requested to be able to attend Mr. Bassett's presentation so she could follow up on her preceding newspaper article. The Senator from CASE outlined their proposed change to the CASE bylaws: any staff member in the College of Engineering may run to be Staff Senator without being a departmental representative to CASE.

Program: Mekeisha Williams began her presentation by outlining development opportunities throughout the university, and then presenting the results from the 2011 Employment Climate Survey. The survey is scheduled to be conducted every two years. The data that she presented reflects the responses of 3211 individuals, a 46% response rate. In comparing the VT results with Great Places to Work data, the University Office of Professional Development has concluded that the university is heading in the right direction. Now that the data has been categorized and sorted, the next steps will be setting up break-out presentations to senior management sections, communicating the results through governance and university committees and commissions, and setting up focus groups for areas that want to improve. Ms. Williams also said that she would make her presentation available to be posted on the Staff Senate web site.

Old Business: None. **New Business:** None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, May 17, at a location yet to be determined. The guest speaker will be announced at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Archer
Senate Secretary