

**STAFF SENATE Minutes**  
**117A Randolph Hall**  
**October 18, 2012**  
12:00 noon – 1:00 P.M.

**Attending:** Bonnie Alberts, Susan Archer, Dan Cook, Velva Groover, Dennis Herron, Robena Hughes, Hal Irvin, Denise Jones, Maxine Lyons, Karen Nicholson, Alex Parrish, Heather Baldwin Patel, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Louellen Sharp, Sue Teel, Nick Vaught, Sally Wieringa, Ken Wieringo, Beverly Williams, and Jon Wooge.

**Guests or Individuals Not on Roster:** Steven Myers, Brent Bowden, Sandra Ross

**Excused:** Leslie Thornton-O'Brien, Lori Greiner, Robert Sebek

**Remote Attendance:** Northern Virginia Center in the National Capital Region did not connect.

**Opening:** President Sue Teel called the meeting to order, and the Agenda was adopted without change.

**Program:** Presentation of the dining story. Questions were opened to the group.

Transitioning in the mid-90's. Utilized swipes in the dining hall, students began to have a voice, and there was the transfer to the flex program. Students could spend balance as they wanted. There is NOT a meal plan for F/S. There are currently 4200 students with dining dollars. All dining centers are open to faculty and staff all the time. F/S can add money to their Hokie Passports (HP) to eat in dining halls. Dining halls currently serving 6.3 million meals a year. Bank fees are greater than HP fees. Currently there are 2000 employees, 1008 this year, 1200 are students. Shifts are shorter than wage S. Cash means a till will be issued, 3 – 4 hours per shifts would be spent on tills. This is why dining halls are cashless. At the end of the spring semester, we will lose off-campus ability for meals. There are Meal Tax opposition plans. 9200 students on major meal plans. There was a F/S meal plans survey. Student services are > capacity. Trying to capture F/S when > capacity which is unfair to students. Students drive the mission. Turner place was built on the academic side. There are nine franchised units which VT owns the franchise. VT pays royalties based on sales. 2 universities in VA are self-operated – VT and Christopher Newport in Hampton Roads. 100% of dining is supported by student fees. We even grow some of our own produce. Dining services garden is at Kentland Farms. Leafy greens, 38,000 meals/day. Broccoli 40,000lb's produce harvest, tomatoes 230,000 portions, flowers, beef and pork, potatoes, onions, peppers, etc. The food comes full circle: Students monies support the garden, the garden is worked by staff and students, and then the food comes back to the table of the university. There is a warehouse on Southgate that stores food. They have new, fast freezers. Thanked VT for letting this department be a leader.

Announcements:

Exemplary Employee this month is Anthony Watson. HR is looking for nominations.

Announcement made that the December meeting will be at the IVTSCC.

At the November meeting, Dr. Lewis has requested that Staff provide input on the new strategic plan, New Horizon.

**Standing Committee Reports:** University Athletics Committee: Robena Hughes presented notes – SAASS academic update, Student life annual report given, and team schedules and missed class time discussed.

University Council: new degree – Project real estate management has been proposed to the Board of Visitors.

Commission on University Support: Future role of Building committee discussed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, November 15, in 117A Randolph Hall. The guest speaker will be Dr. William Lewis, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Thornton-O'Brien  
Senate Secretary