

STAFF SENATE Minutes

310 ICTAS

July 18, 2013

Noon – 1:00 pm

Attending: Susan Archer, Dan Cook, Lori Greiner, Velva Groover, Valerie Henderson, Dennis Herron, Hal Irvin, Denise Jones, Maxine Lyons, Alex Parrish, Heather Patel, Ashley Roberts, Wyatt Sasser, Llyn Sharp, Louellen Sharp, Amy Splitt, Sue Teel, Leslie Thornton-O'Brien, Ken Wieringo, Beverly Williams, Amanda Williams, Jon Wooge

Excused: Bonnie Alberts, Judy Alford, Kimberly Dodson, Kristin Gilbert, Karen Hall, Cathy Hill, Albert Moore, Donna Raines, Angie Robinson, Amy Tanner, Elizabeth Visser, Sally Wieringa

Guest: Karen Nicholson

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

Opening: Adoption of Agenda approved. All minutes have been sent out electronically.

Announcements: Please send Leslie Thornton-O'Brien (lthornto@vt.edu) a note if you will not be in attendance at the Staff Senate meeting so that she may mark you excused.

Announcements:

Staff Senate Standing Committees – No Updates

(All Senators are expected to sign up for one standing committee, per Staff Senate by-laws.)

University Council, Commission, Committee Reports – No Updates

I'm a Senator....what do I do?

- Bring your lunch and eat here.
- If you can't come, please send an alternate.
- The whole purpose is for you to take the information back to your constituency group, we are each representing a constituency groups.
- Floor was opened for questions from new staff Senators.
 - New Senator asked for an explanation on what staff senate is all about: Susan Archer answered – we are here to worry about issues affecting staff as well as how all three senates interact.
 - Sue Teel added that we are a conduit where staff can talk about issues they are having. It may not result in change, but it is a place where staff can be recognized and receive help for issues.
 - Wyatt Sasser added: Staff senate is multi-faceted in shared governance and you also have commissions and committees and senators and alternates can serve on certain committees, etc. and each goes into the governance system at the university.
 - Tom Tucker added: It is a conduit for information
- Responsibilities as a staff senator: You have to sign up for one of the standing committees. (Committee sign-up sheet sent around)
 - Descriptions of the committees:
 - Jon – elections and nominations committee: runs the election in the spring to elect staff representatives to committee's, councils, etc.
 - Dennis – McComas: Annual event for staff senators, alternates, officers; event is growing each year; features a combination of speakers from on and off campus, fun opportunity to get together to get together talk about what we do and who we are; We have a fund set up named after Dr. McComas and we are exploring other ways to raise money; please sign up
 - Robert – Communications: (given by Sue) they maintain website and listserv
 - No current chair (given by Sue) – Policies and Issues: Hit or miss – They meet when things come up; if anyone wants to chair, let us know.

Program: Tom Tucker, SAFE President

VGEA

- Virginia Governmental Employee association
- Formed 50+ years ago from retired employees regarding issues important to Virginia employees
- Group whose purpose it is to lobby for state employees

- The \$65 per year of service as well as other issues is something VEGA fought for on our behalf
- \$96 per year for membership (you can pay all at once, quarterly, or \$4 per pay period)
 - You get all the benefits of what they do for you (fighting for raises, health care costs, etc.)
 - \$2500 death and dismemberment; \$1000 spouse/dependent death and dismemberment
 - Insurance savings from Liberty Mutual, Elephant, etc.
 - Discounts with nTelos wireless, Verizon, etc.
 - Discounts from Dish Network, etc.
 - Discounts from Lenscrafters as well as other retailers
 - Discounts for travel (Ticketsatwork.com, Carowinds, etc.)
 - Discounts on movie tickets
- Go to www.vgea.org/join-up to sign up
- 21 members on the board with only one member from higher education
- Make sure you give your input!
- Meetings for VGEA – regional chapters (if we were to get enough people signed up here, then we could have a VT chapter)
- Membership is based on a rolling calendar year (ex. If you join in July, your membership is July – June of the next year)
- If you have any questions, please see one of the VGEA members (Tom Tucker, Susan Archer, etc.)

Update from Hal Irvin:

Employee Communications update by Hal Irvin: Laura Neff-Henderson will be happy to join the Communications committee for the meetings. She is very motivated to get information out to staff across campus. Hal recognized that this group (Staff Senate) is great at getting information across campus.

If you have ideas of people across campus that are getting the school year going, please let Hal Irvin or Laura Neff-Henderson know. Laura is writing an article on individuals who get the school year kicked off each fall.

Next meeting:

August 15, 2013
 Speaker: TBD
 Location: 310 ICTAS

Respectfully submitted,
 Leslie Thornton-O'Brien
 Senate Secretary