

STAFF SENATE Minutes  
2420 North End Center  
May 15, 2014  
Noon – 1:00 pm

**Attending:** Bonnie Alberts, Susan Archer, Dan Cook, Velva Groover, Anna Hawthorne, Robena Hughes, Hal Irvin, Janet Murphy, Alex Parrish, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylor, Robert Sebek, Amy Tanner, Sue Teel, Leslie Thornton-O'Brien, Tom Tucker, Christine Watkinson, Sally Wieringa, Ken Wieringo, Jon Wooge

**Excused:** Judy Alford, Cindy Booth, Lori Greiner, Bhadra Gunsekera, Maxine Lyons, Donna Raines, Katie Reaves, Louellen Sharp, Amy Splitt

**Guest:** Steve Myers

**Opening:** Adoption of Agenda with change of Becky Morris being moved to first item at meeting. 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.

**Program – Becky Morris - Insurance Coordinator, Human Resources**  
**Open enrollment and what's new**

- Check your home mail for a copy of the Spotlight
- Hr.vt.edu, icon that says "Open enrollment 2014" and you can download the current spotlight
- ALEX, the interactive tool, is available again this year (if you're on a prescription medicine, please check with your pharmacist regarding your costs if you want to switch to Aetna because there are high deductibles)
- Price increase on premiums pending budget approval. New rates are printed in the Spotlight
- Center of Spotlight shows in red the changes
- Both Anthem and Aetna are picking up behavioral health
- Aetna get two additional do rights
- How long does it take for those to show up?
  - Commonwealth says a month but it's actually the next quarter after you do it
- How do you know if it's shown up?
  - You can look on your account online
- New Asthma COPD and hypertension in myactive health
- You can opt out of myactive health, but you will lose your premium awards as well
- You can choose to not participate in the healthy insight
- You can schedule your phone calls for the healthy insight at different times
- On the back of your Spotlight, there is an active health number and if you call them, you can participate in the program
- If you currently get the premium rewards, then you do not have to do anything at all until June 2015.
- If you are not getting your rewards and think that you should be, then you need to contact Becky and she will send you a form to fill out.
- You have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to spend your flexible account money. You have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to process a claim.
- If you leave employment, you've got up to three months to file your claims.
- If you have events, call and talk to them, because they are here to help.
- How long can dependents stay on?
  - Natural, adopted, or step-child
  - 26 – December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they turn 26
  - They do not have to still be a full time student
  - They have to live in continental United States
  - They can be married
  - If you have a child who has their own insurance, and you have a family plan, continue to keep that child on the plan. The child's insurance becomes primary and yours become secondary, but if something catastrophic happens, then it gives the child the health care coverage
- Is there a fee for FSA?
  - \$3.65 per month

- **Premium table – if you retire before 65, the premium you will pay will be the bottom number (current premium and what state pays)? Correct?**
  - **As a retiree, you can still get the \$17 reduction**
  - **But yes, that's correct**
  - **There is a \$120 credit if you're on long term disability**
  - **If you have 15 years of service or more, you get \$4 per year of service as a credit**
  - **If you are a VRS retiree, it is added to your check**
  - **If you're an optional retiree, you get it in a separate check**
  - **You can lose that credit if you retire and your spouse adds you to their state plan**
- **If you're having issues with your FSA card, call Becky.**
- **No plan to have a biometric screening on campus?**
  - **No because we have to pay for it and we have no budget**
- **Will they cover hearing aids?**
  - **Up to \$1200 if you have vision and hearing**

### **Staff Senate Standing Committees – Updates**

**Policies and Issues** – Anna Hawthorne *Met, most committee members there, will approve minutes for the next time and share with SS in general. Three things they want to bring for discussion – vote next time – had not previously been an active committee, has some information regarding constitution and bylaws and we have relevant things to offer to the staff members as a whole, you as a Senator should familiarize yourself with the bylaws and constitution and there is good information in there. 1) bylaws listed three standing committees and needs to add McComas 2)in bylaws there are outdated references and they need to be updated 3) propose adjust bylaw amendment procedure – recommend a first and second reading or just something more formal (less vaguely identified) The outlined structure of the bylaws uses all letters and need to fix the outline pattern. Sue complimented group on looking at the bylaws and updating what needs to be updated. If something is not addressed in bylaws, then it moves up to the university councils bylaws. Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month.*

**Communications Committee** – Robert Sebek *If you're on the committee, they will be looking for a new chair; they keep the website and the listserv*

**Elections and Nominations Committee** – Jon Wooge *nothing to report*

**McComas Leadership Seminar Planning Committee** – Dennis Herron & Sally Wieringa *Successful seminar this year and administration talked to committee about how great they did; 223 in attendance; raised \$4000 from UOPD; \$15,011; spent \$12,000~ and have money left over. Standing budget from university for \$15,000 for McComas. Next year has a commitment from Dr. Sands and Frank Beamer as speakers. Money went to pay for \$59 per person day meeting package at the Inn. Actually had 223 registered. Actually Sally raised all the money. Feedback on having everything in one room vs. having breakout sessions? Heard feedback in favor of both.*

*All minutes from governance are on the [governance.vt.edu](http://governance.vt.edu) lists all minutes*

### **Next meeting:**

June 19, 2014

Speaker: Dr. Mark McNamee, Senior Vice President and Provost

Location: 2420 North End Center

### **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Thornton-O'Brien  
Senate Secretary