

Staff Senate minutes: March 19, 2015

Noon, VBI Conference Center

Attending: Bonnie Alberts, Blair Allen, Susan Archer, LaTawnya Burleson, Dan Cook, Anna Hawthorne, Steve Myers, Steve Nagle, Alex Parrish, Heather Parrish, Donna Raines, Katie Reaves, Ashley Roberts, Wyatt Sasser, Robert Sebek, Quinn Steen, Amy Tanner, Leslie Thornton-O'Brien, Tom Tucker, , Tami Watson , Ken Wieringo, Jon Wooge

Excused: Susan Cindy Booth, Velva Groover, Cathy Hill, Albert Moore, Louellen Sharp, Sue Teel

Mr. Tucker held a drawing for prizes for new VGEA members.

Mr. Cook announced we would have no presentation, as the speaker had other commitments. Dr. Ellen Plummer will be speaking in June on shared governance, and everyone is invited to bring colleagues to that meeting.

Kim Rhodes is the staff representative on the provost search committee; there are lots of staff in areas under the provost and there will be input opportunities on candidates.

Mr. Wooge gave an overview of our election process. You don't have to be a senator to serve on University Council, CSPA, and most committees. Staff Senate is organized through staff association: one for each college and various administrative areas. Some areas have senators but not an active staff association. Committees report to one or more commissions. Resolutions start in commissions, then go to University Council, and are then approved by the Board of Visitors. Staff Senate can forward issues to a committee or commission for consideration. For example, the smoking policy revisions started in the Committee on University Support, but also went through CSPA.

Senate alternates are eligible for any position on commissions or committees that senators are. There is no limit to the number of alternates under senate rules, but staff associations may set rules on how alternates are selected and limited.

A motion was made and passed to close nominations on March 31. We are still seeking candidates for Outreach and International Affairs and Faculty Affairs.

How to become a senator:

- If you are in an area with an active staff association, go through them
- If no active association, you'll have to work with staff members in your area to hold an election/selection process

Bios will be sent for each candidate when the election survey comes out.

We keep a list of runner up candidates in case a position comes open during the term.

The Senate elects Commission representatives. We recommend candidates (2) to the President's Office for Committees (through the same election process). The President then selects the members for committees.

Parliamentarian, Secretary, and Vice President are up for election again. Anyone can run for these positions. The VP is president-elect; the president can choose to serve a second term.

Staff Senate has four standing committees. Each senator is expected to serve on at least one of these committees:

- McComas Leadership Seminar
- Elections
- Policies and Procedures
- Communications

Mr. Cook spoke on what it means to be a senator:

- You are a conduit for staff members for your area/constituent groups
- Your votes isn't solely based on your opinions; you should consult with coworkers
- Staff Senate meetings are always open and anyone can attend

We are still seeking people to serve on the Staff Appreciation Committee.

A letter will come out soon about the Spouse and Dependent Scholarship friendly competition between us and Faculty Senate. It will be based on the number of participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sebek
Staff Senate Secretary