

Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

February 16, 2017
12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M
Hillcrest Hall

MINUTES

Attendees: Bonnie Alberts, Jackie Blevins, Debbie Breon, LaTawnya Burleson, Chad Dalton, Kim Dulaney, Lee Ann Ellis, Linda Fountaine, Velva Groover, Brian Huddleston, Robena Hughes, Robin Lawson, Rachel Lester, Katrina Loan, Sheree Montgomery, Albert Moore, Steve Nagle, Alex Parrish, Allie Price, Robert Sebek, Tammie Smith, Amy Splitt, Lenora Stover, Steve Tatum, Judy Taylor, James Venable III, Tami Watson, Jon Wooge

Phone Attendee: Robin Littleton

Excused: Judy Alford, Dan Cook, Sue Ellen Crocker, Carolyne Dudding, Kelli Hall-Manning, Anna Hawthorne, Rob Jacks, Zerita Montgomery, Hannah Parks, Heather Parrish, Sue Teel, Sarah Woodward,

Guests: Amy Ingram (is now a new member to Staff Senate as an alternate for GASA).

Call to order by president, Alex Parrish 12:03pm

The agenda was emailed out to the Staff Senate listserv prior to the meeting and copies available at the meeting. James Venable made the motion to accept the agenda, with a second made by Katrina Loan.

Staff Senate Standing Committees – Updates

Communications

Katrina Loan's communication committee is working on headshots for the Staff Senate webpage of all senators and alternate senators to help people get to know one another. At the March meeting the committee will have their camera there and ready to take head shots. Please come a little early to get this done.

Katrina spoke about the Adopt a Senior Program that her department lead and opened up to the Staff Senate to assist. They were able to put together 99 bags of items for the seniors and had left over materials that they donated to the facility. This surpassed the goal that was set. Thank you to everyone that participated.

Chad Dalton and Rachel Lester are working on a brochure that highlights the benefits of being part of the Staff Senate. This will be a great promotional piece for us to share.

Elections and Nominations - Open spots to be elected

Jon Wooge and his committee are working on nominations for the upcoming election. There are many vacancies on the Committee and Commission list, so it was requested that Jon send out the current copy on the listserv. This committee hopes to have collected names and get the ballot out by the end of March. The ballot goes to all Staff Senators. If a senator is not able to vote during the timeline set forth by the committee, an alternate may vote in your place. Please let Jon Wooge know if this is the case.

□ **Policies and Issues**

The proposed changes to the constitution that the Staff Senate sent forth has been approved by Staff Senate and sent to Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs for vote. It needs to be read at two different meetings before voting. Currently it has been read once.

There was discussion about changing the governance wording on the line of approval process. Currently it has to go all the way to the Board of Visitors to get final approval. It was agreed upon by our group that minor wording changes were a waste of the Board of Visitors time and that we would like to change the ending vote to University Council. More discussion of this will be done in the Policies and Issues Committee before putting forth a recommended change to the Staff Senate.

□ **McComas Leadership Seminar**

Tammie Smith, Co-chair to the McComas Leadership Seminar, gave an update to the progress of the planning of the Staff Senate. All seats are filled with 225 staff signed up to attend. Special arrangements are being made for food allergies and working to accommodate any other needs. Members of this committee are responsible for assisting attendees on the day of the event to insure a smooth day. Since the committee is larger this year, it will allow for a smoother seminar. Members of the Staff Senate expressed gratitude to be able to sign up a day or two before the rest of the people. This committee was happy to accommodate.

University Council, Commission, Committees – Updates

Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Robin Lawson said that one item of discussion in this committee is how leave is used. Some staff are using community service leave for items at the university and this committee feels that that is not a good use of the community service leave and that they would like to find ways that staff can volunteer for campus activities without being penalized or having to use their annual leave.

Staff Appreciation Day – call for volunteers. Margie Murray in the president's office is looking for volunteers for the Staff Appreciation Day Committee. If interested please contact her. mbmurray@vt.edu. The venue for this year will be changed from the past years.

State Legislature – Updates. Alex Parrish shared information about House Bill 1500. Currently the VA State Legislature Websites house and senate are in favor of the state offering a 3% raise to classified staff effective this July. The governor suggested that staff be given a one-time bonus. A letter to the governor it was suggested house bill 1410 change Board of Visitors to Board of Trustees. Also in the legislature, there was discussion about regulating the student populations from Virginia.

Principles of Community – Several years ago the Principles of Community document was updated and copies are available for pick up with Marcie Bishop in Burruss Hall. If you would like a copy email Marcie at bmarc555@vt.edu

April 1 retreat with Board of Visitors – Sharing of Information. This year the Board of Visitors has decided to have a retreat that will include all members of the Board of Visitors to have the opportunity to get together and share information.

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management – Update. This Committee did not originally have a staff representative on it. However, after bringing this to the attention of the committee, the committee offered Tammie Smith the seat, in which she accepted.

OTHER: Alex Parrish and Velva Groover discussed the progress of getting another ombuds Office set up on campus. An ombudsman from MIT came to Virginia Tech and talked to a committee charged with getting a new ombuds office. She shared how many issues that were brought force and how to find resolution by going through an ombudsman.

Tammie Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 with a 2nd by James Venable.

SAVE THE DATE:

Staff Senate Meeting March 16, 2017 Location: The Inn at Virginia Tech, Duck Pond Room