

Staff Senate

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

March 16, 2017
12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M
The Inn at Virginia Tech (Duck Pond Room)

MINUTES

Attendees: Bonnie Alberts, Lisa Bishop, Dan Cook, Sue Ellen Crocker, Chad Dalton, Kim Dulaney, Lee Ann Ellis, Linda Fountaine, Velva Groover, Anna Hawthorne, Amy Ingram, Robin Lawson, Rachel Lester, Katrina Loan, Sheree Montgomery, Steve Nagle, Hannah Parks, Robert Sebek, Sally Shupe, Tamarah Smith, Judy Taylor, James Venable III, Tami Watson, Sarah Woodward, Jon Wooge

Webex Attendee: Rob Jacks

Excused: Debbie Breon, LaTawnya Burluson, Brian Huddleston, Robena Hughes, Alex Parrish, Heather Parrish, Lenora Stover, Sue Teel

Call to order by vice president, Robert Sebek 12:03pm

The agenda was emailed out to the staff senate listserv prior to the meeting and copies available at the meeting. Katrina Loan made the motion to accept the agenda, with a second made by Kim Ridpath.

Approval of February minutes were done electronically and suggested revisions were made.

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. Rachel Lester took pictures at the March meeting and will continue working on this. This committee continues to work on the staff senate brochure (Chad Dalton), the intranet, and updating the website.

Elections and Nominations - Open spots to be elected

Jon Wooge and his committee will send out the election ballot to senators, and/or alternates in the case that a senator is not available, in early April. It will be open for five days. Anna Hawthorne asked for clarification on when alternates are to vote. Jon shared that alternates are asked to vote when a senator from their group is not available.

Officers that were elected last year are eligible to remain in their current role for one more year (2017-2018). At this time, the current officers (Alex Parrish, Robert Sebek, and Tamarah Smith) have agreed to remain through the 2018 term.

□ **Policies and Issues**

The Policies and Issues Committee will now be led by Robert Sebek. Robert asked for a short meeting after the staff senate meeting today for the Policies and Issues group to meet.

□ **McComas Leadership Seminar**

Tamarah Smith, Co-chair to the McComas Leadership Seminar, gave an update to the progress of the planning of the staff senate. The Chair and co-chair of the committee are busy coordinating the planning of the McComas Leadership Seminar and following up with all members of the committee as to the status of their assigned roles. A committee meeting is being planned for final preparations.

Robert Sebek reminded the group that all senators must be on at least one standing committee each year. The standing committees are: Communications, Elections & Nominations, Policies & Issues, and McComas Leadership Seminar.

University Council, Commission, Committees – Updates

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs – Robert Sebek shared that the universities human resource department has been working with an outside consultant group for a year now in reorganizing Virginia Tech’s human resource department. Prior to this happening, Alex had asked that the staff be involved in the reorganization with human resources, but it did not happen. **Alex is following up on why this did not happen.**

Outreach and International Affairs – Bonnie Alberts shared that there has been a lot of discussion about international affairs since the faculty resolution was created.

Ombudsman Resolution

Robert Sebek shared that the ombuds was created due to the faculty having many issues and the need to have a person/place to hash out and find resolution to the issues. The ombuds position will report to the president’s office. Originally this resolution was to only support faculty, however it has now changed and will be available to any member of the university community.

Sue Ellen Crocker made a motion to revise the wording in the ombuds resolution under the 3rd Whereas to - strike “the interests of faculty and others” and under the 4th Whereas to - strike “faculty and other”. This revised wording motion was seconded by Anna Hawthorne. Robert Sebek shared that this wording change was needed to make it inclusive of the university committee. Robin Lawson shared that they are having this same discussion at the *Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity*.

Hannah Parks said that the group creating the new ombuds position have been in close contact and collaboration with the current graduate student ombuds and they feel both ombuds positions will complement each other. The University Community ombuds will save time and resources to all the offices that currently cannot accommodate all of the needs.

Anna Hawthorne asked about funding, “where is the money coming from to pay for this position?” The answer is that the president’s office is currently working on this.

After all discussion the resolution was put to vote. There was one vote opposed, and the rest of the votes were in favor of the resolution. With the majority in agreement, the resolution will next go to the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs for vote.

Constitutional Amendment

Robert Sebek lead discussion on the approval process for any changes on the constitutional amendment. The policies and issues committee will work on proposed wording changes to the constitution and reasoning to present to the staff senate.

Tammie Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 with a 2nd by James Venable.

SAVE THE DATE:

Staff Senate Meeting April 20, 2017 Location: Hill Crest Hall