

Staff Senate

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

August 17, 2017
12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M
Torgersen in room 1050

MINUTES

Attendees: Bonnie Alberts, Judy Alford, Lisa Bishop, Chelsea Blanchet, Cynthia Booth, Debbie Breon, Chad Dalton, Kim Dulaney, Lee Ann Ellis, Velva Groover, Bruce Harper, Melanie Darden, Carolyn Hopkins, Brian Huddleston, Robena Hughes, Doug Hylton, Amy Ingram, Albert Moore, Steve Nagle, Heather Parrish, Kim Ridpath, Robert Sebek, Laura Steinberg, Judy Taylor, Sue Teel

Webex Attendee(s): Tammie Smith, Angel Carter, Zirta Montgomery

Speaker(s): Jonathan Byers, Mallory Foutch, Katelin Mey

Excused: Sue Ellen Crocker, Stacey Farley, Sheree Montgomery, Lenora Stover, James Venable, Beverly Williams, Sarah Woodward, Jon Wooge and Katrina Loan

Call to order at 12:03 p.m. by President, Robert Sebek.

The agenda was electronically submitted to senators a week before the meeting. With no additions, the agenda was approved.

Attendance sheet for check-in was available near room entrance.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of July minutes was done electronically.

Staff Senate Standing Committees

Each senator should join at least one of the standing committees. Alternates are welcome to join, but it is not mandatory.

Updates

- Communications – Nothing to report at this time.
- Elections and Nominations – Jon Wooge is retiring, so the committee is working on a timeline to see if there are any spots that need to be filled.
- Policies and Issues – Mr. Sebek – We are in the process of looking at an amendment that will stop future amendments going all the way to the Board of Visitors. This is put on hold until after the next Board of Visitors meeting.

- McComas Leadership Seminar – Nothing to report at this time.

University Council, Commission, Committees

Most University Committees, Commissions and Council have at least one staff seat. Senators (and, in some cases alternates) are encouraged to participate in at least one university Committee, Commission or Council.

Presentations:

Mallory Foutch, Program Coordinator and Katelin Mey, Gender-Based Violence Prevention Coordinator with the Women’s Center

The Women’s Center serves students, faculty and staff. The center promotes a VT community that is safe, equitable, and supportive for women and that celebrates their experiences, achievements and diversity. This both programmatic and community building. They have a strong focus on advocacy of staff, and there is a great team who work on the rest of gender equity.

- **VT Women Connect** - Virginia Tech supports the mission of the Virginia Network through VT Women Connect (VTWC). VTWC promotes, develops and supports Virginia Tech’s professional women by providing a forum to forge relationships, develop supportive networks, and share ideas and information. We manage a listserv of 700+ faculty and staff.
- **Working Moms’ Group** - Established in 2006, this group is designed to meet the needs of working mothers. More than 200 faculty and staff women share information and resources, as well as provide support to help each other balance work, life, and family.
- **The Women’s Alliance** is one of the newest caucuses in the university structure. Ms. Foutch and Ms. Mey shared a listserv where employees can get more information. Training.vt.edu offers training of interest in this area as well.
- **Kids’ Night Out** - Since 2002, Chi Delta Alpha has provided weekly drop-in childcare at the Women’s Center. This allows students who are also parents a much-needed night off.
- **Women’s Leadership & Mentoring Program** - Offline this year for evaluation, this program provides a cohort-based experience for post-masters professionals in a series of sessions on topics related to professional development. The WLMP is specifically designed for women who are [aspiring] higher education administrators and wish to gain leadership knowledge and experience.
- **Through Feminist Eyes** - In partnership with the Women’s and Gender Studies program, TFE is intended to provide opportunities for students to engage feminist scholarship at Virginia Tech. Assistant Professor of Sociology, Dr. Kait Boyle, presented to a group of over 120+ about her research on rape and sexual assault reporting on college campuses.
- **Women’s Celebration Month** - What began in 1986 as Women’s Week is now an annual, month-long celebration that recognizes, affirms, and showcases the achievements, concerns, and diversity of women.
- **The Red Flag Campaign** - Since 2007, The Red Flag Campaign has helped to raise awareness of relationship violence and promote bystander action.
- **It’s on Us Campaign** – Last year, over 1,400 Hokies took the pledge to recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault, identify situations in which sexual assault may

occur, intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given, and create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

- **Mentors in Violence Prevention** - Virginia Tech's MVP program is designed to educate, inspire, and empower members of our community to utilize self-understanding, integrity, and courageous leadership to prevent, interrupt, and respond to sexist abuse in order to create a civil and just community. Faculty and Staff can volunteer in our community as facilitators, and receive free training and education.
- **Counseling and Advocacy Services** - The Women's Center serves as an on-campus focal point for services for victims and survivors of interpersonal violence. The center also provides support in the areas of work/life integration, wellness, and institutional advocacy.

Jonathan Byers, Assistant Director, Career and Professional Development

This center is here to partner with students while they attend Virginia Tech. They are located at the corner of Washington Street and West Campus Drive, and their website is career.vt.edu. They work with undergrads through senior, as well as graduate students and alumni. There are about 16 career advisors and three grad assistants. The first phase of career development is Explore – to better understand themselves, careers and majors. Students will learn more about what VT has to offer, as well as taking a personality assessment to help them discover more about themselves. The Career Center also provides a Post-Graduate Report to see more information about what careers graduates when into after graduating with a particular degree. The second phase is helping students find experience, whether it is a paid internship, summer job, volunteer work, etc. Hokies4Hire is the main database students use when looking for employment. Hokie Career Tools is a search engine for finding work as well. Candidcareer.com is compiled of 1-2 minute videos of career persons talking about their jobs to help students get a sense of what it would be like to work in that field. The third phase is Develop, which is how to get ready for the career the student has chosen. In this phase, practical things such as business and dining etiquette are covered, as well as resume help, career fairs and preparing for graduate school. The motto of this center is, “Come Early, Come Often.” Students are encouraged to come in as freshmen, and continue to work with the Career Center throughout their time at Virginia Tech. Feel free to contact Jonathan Byers if you have any further questions.

Resolution

UC Resolution 2017-18A: Resolution to Amend the University Council By-Laws as recommended by the Governance Task Force

Ms. Teel moved to approve this resolution. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is September 21, 2017 at 12 PM in Torgersen in room 1000

Adjourned 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Parrish