

Staff Senate

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

October 19, 2017

12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M

Torgersen in room 1000

MINUTES

Attendees: Bonnie Alberts, Lisa Bishop, Debbie Breon, Chad Dalton, Bruce Harper, Robena Hughes, Doug Hylton, Amy Ingram, John Lemaire, Katrina Loan, Steve Nagle, Tracy Newton, Hannah Parks, Heather Parrish, Tamarah Smith, Laura Steinburg, Judy Taylor, Melissa Thomas, James Venable, Beverly Williams, Lance Yelton

Webex Attendee(s): Judy Alford, Zerita Montgomery, Sarah Woodward

Speaker(s): Ellen Plummer, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration (Future of the merger with VT-Carilion School of Medicine) and Karlee Siepierski, Campus Sustainability Planner, standing in for Denny Cochrane, Sustainability Program Manager (Green RFP Program)

Excused: Cynthia Booth, Angel Carter, Sue Ellen Crocker, Kimberly Ridpath, Velva Groover

Call to order at 12:00 p.m. by President, Robert Sebek.

There was a proposed change to the agenda – add in Lisa Wilkes and move updates to the end. Agenda was approved with this change.

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

Update from the Staff Senate President

The Staff Senate is continuing the work on restarting and establishing new staff associations across campus. The focus is currently on steering staff to start new staff associations in the following areas:

- CNRE
- Registrar/Hokie Passport/Bursar, Financial Aid
- Athletics

Next month's Staff Senate meeting (on Thursday, November 16th) will be internally focused. We will be reviewing our role in governance, and dividing into breakout sessions. Mr. Sebek is looking for people who are willing to facilitate breakout sessions and take notes.

Presentations:

First Speaker: ***Ellen Plummer, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration*** (Future of the merger with VT-Carilion School of Medicine) Ms. Plummer presented the governance process of Virginia Tech. She stressed the importance of the Staff Senate as part of this organization. The Board of Visitors is appointed by the governor, except for the role of the President of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The extension work is what makes our university unique. We use a resolution format when it comes to changing bylaws. As Staff Senate, our principle body is the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs. The chart Ms. Plummer gave us has the committees listed so that we can see how they are linked with commissions. Ellen stressed the importance of the reports back from the council, commissions and committees.

Update on the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institution (VTCRI) and Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTC SOM). The notion from the outset was that the two would be connected. Institutes are dedicated to research – they do not offer degrees. The faculty in the institutes do not have teaching loads – they are not on the same tenure track as faculty in colleges. As the school of medicine was making progress to getting itself accredited, we ran into governance problems. There were questions by AC creditors about how autonomous about how the school was. They decided to move forward with the school being independent. Over the last 4-5 years, the institute and the school of medicine continued to move forward. The institute belongs to VT, the school belongs to Carilion. The university is going to acquire the school of medicine as its ninth college. The vote will be taking place in the November Board meeting. Ellen believes Staff Senate will need to reach out to the staff in Roanoke to see how they can serve as an active part of our senate. This school will not have enough VT staff on it to populate the shared governance roles normally filled by a VT college. We face this same issue with staff from the national capital region.

Second Speaker: ***Lisa Wilkes, Interim VP for Human Resources*** (HR Transformation) In August, Virginia Tech President Tim Sands announced a reorganization to strategically align the work of the Office of the President. Lisa Wilkes, associate vice president for administration, has agreed to serve as interim vice president for human resources. Several more positions in the administrative arm have been filled in the past year as well. The strategic arm will be populated in the coming year. She is happy to come back at any time to give a more in-depth update at any time. We will likely have someone from Benefits come speak to Staff Senate in the spring.

Third Speaker: ***Karlee Siepierski, Campus Sustainability Planner*** (Green RFP Program) Karlee overviewed the Green RFP Program, which is the request for proposal for sustainability initiatives by student organizations. This program was established in 2010 to give students an opportunity to help make Virginia Tech a national leader in campus sustainability. Recognized student organizations are given the opportunity each year to submit a proposal for a sustainable idea that they would like to see implemented on the university's Blacksburg, Virginia campus. Proposals that support the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment, produce realizable savings, and require one-time (as opposed to ongoing) funding are given preference. The goal of the program is to have approved proposals funded and implemented within the same academic year. More information can be found on their website at <https://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/green-rfp-program.html>

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.

- Communications – Using WebEx for our meetings each month has been great, but we have to convert it to another program in order to add the saved video to our website. We will be using both Videos Echo360 on Canvas and WebEx for future meetings.
- Elections and Nominations – We have 13-14 open positions coming up. More information on these coming soon.
- Policies and Issues – No update.
- McComas Leadership Seminar – No update.

We will continue to ask the people to serve on University Commissions and Committees to submit summaries of what is happening that pertains to staff across campus.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies – Dr. DePauw reported on the roll out plan for the Anti-Academic Bullying Initiative. The plan includes a presentation by the Dean on October 23rd. The audience is for faculty and staff and video will be captured. The new website will be introduced and feedback will be sought.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is November 16, 2017 at 12 PM, Torgersen in room 1000.

Adjourned 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Parrish