

Staff Senate

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

September 21, 2017
12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M.
Torgersen in room 1000

MINUTES

Attendees: Bonnie Alberts, Judy Alford, Lisa Bishop, Chelsea Blanchet, Angel Carter, Chad Dalton, Lee Ann Ellis, Linda Fountaine, Bruce Harper, Melanie Darden, Carolyn Hopkins, Robena Hughes, Doug Hylton, Amy Ingram, Katrina Loan, Zerita Montgomery, Albert Moore, Steve Nagle, Erin Poff, Kevin Siegel (for Tom Czamanske), Kim Ridpath, Robert Sebek, Tammie Smith, Laura Steinberg, James Venable, Leisa Wilkes, Jon Wooge

Webex Attendee(s): Cynthia Booth, Kim Dulaney, Anna Hawthorne, Brian Huddleston, Heather Parrish, Robena Hughes, Heather Snidow

Speaker(s): Karlee Siepierski, Campus Sustainability Planner (Green Office certification program); Alison Cross, Director of Recreational Sports (opportunities for staff); Robert Sebek, University Libraries (resources for staff); Tammie Smith, Summer & Winter Sessions (resources for staff from Hokie Wellness and Human Resources)

Excused: Debbie Breon, Sue Ellen Crocker, Stacey Farley, Velva Groover, Sheree Montgomery, Hannah Parks, Lenora Stover, Judy Taylor, Sue Teel, Beverly Williams, Sarah Woodward

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 August minutes was done electronically.

Update from the Staff Senate Preseident

Robert attended the Board of Visitors meeting and gave an update on the Staff Senate. Robert shared his enthusiasm with the Statt Senate on the work that Lisa Wilkes has done in getting President Sands to issue a statement about the importance of Staff Governance at the university (a copy is attached)

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 – More members are needed for this committee. If you are interested or would like to hear more about this, please contact Katrina Loan (katrll1@vt.edu).
- 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. There is one vacancy for the University Council (two people gave their names to President Sebek as being interested). Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity has one vacancy. The Commission on Student Affairs has one vacancy. Anyone interested in any of the open Commissions, please contact President Sebek (rsebek@vt.edu)
- Policies and Issues – Our new Chair for this Committee is Judy Alford, Past Staff Senate President. President Sebek originally had send the resolution on the amendment to Staff Senate consititon back to Policies and Issues when a concern was brought forth to the Staff Senate about how changing the wording could change our connection with the BOV. After discussion with the BOV, they are in favor of wording changes to the constitution not going through them to allow time for more critrial issues. Therefore, President Sebek went forward with the 2nd reading. Tammie Smith made the motion to accept the changes to the constitution with a second by Katrina Loan.
- McComas Leadership Seminar – Zerita Montgomery and Angel Carter, Co-Chairs of this committee, are in the process of setting up a date and location for the McComas Leadership Seminar. The theme for the 2018 seminar is “Mentoring”. Zerita asked the senators to please send recommendations to her (zerita@vt.edu) of any dynamic speakers that can be reviewed for possible participation in the seminar.
- 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:

First Speaker: **Karlee Siepierski, Campus Sustainability Planner** (Green Office Certification Program) Office spaces contribute greatly to the energy used and waste generated on the Virginia Tech campus. The Green Office Certification Program gives employees and graduate students the tools they need to create a greener work space on campus. Departments get points for taking sustainable actions in their personal and shared office spaces, and then get recognized for their efforts.

Eligibility

Anyone who has an office on campus may participate. Generally, groups of individuals who share common spaces (kitchens, break rooms, mail rooms or printing rooms) are considered an “office”. Graduate students are encouraged to participate as a lab or research group as well.

Sign-up

If you are interested in learning more or signing up for this program, contact the Office of Sustainability at 540-231-7358. (For more information, you can also visit their website at <https://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/green-office-program.html>)

On November 8th there will be a meeting and lunch for anyone interested in signing up for the certification program.

Next speaker: Alison Cross, Director of Recreational Sports. Ali spoke about the two gyms available to staff: War Memorial and McComas. Both gyms have swimming pools and offer swimming lessons to children and adults. There are group exercises available at both locations and you can even hire a personal trainer to help you with your personal goals. There is a large amount of intramural sports that you can get involved in. With Blacksburg being a great location to be involved in outdoor activities, Recreational Sports also offers a program called Venture Out. This program has a list of several different trips and programs, such as canoeing, caving and rock climbing. There is a small fee and many trips to choose from. Also available with Venture out is a rental system where, for a small fee, you can rent equipment for trips you may do on your own: back packs, tents, coolers, camp chair, outdoor games, etc. For more information, you can visit their website at <https://www.recsports.vt.edu/visit/indoor/ventureouthouse.html>

Finally, **Robert and Tammie** shared many available perks at the library, hokie wellness and HR that are very noteworthy (please see the attached handout for a breakdown)

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is October 19, 2017 at 12 PM, Torgersen in room 1000.

Adjourned 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamarah Smith