

Staff Senate

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

June 20, 2019

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

3100 University Gateway Center

MINUTES

Attendees: *Judy Alford, Lisa Bishop, Deborah Breon, LaTawnya Burlison, Angel Carter, Melanie Darden, Velva Groover, Bruce Harper, Jennifer Hedrick, Robena Hughes, Amy Ingram, Katrina Loan, Dani McNeil, Sheree Montgomery, Zerita Montgomery, Brandy Morse, Steve Nagle, Sarah Owen, Heather Parrish, Tasia Persson, Jennifer Pike, Kimberly Ridpath, Amber Robinson, Robert Sebek, Sally Shupe, Becki Smith, Tamarah Smith, Pam Starkey, Laura Steinberg, Judy Taylor, Beverly Williams*

Zoom Attendee(s): *Hannah Parks, Jessica Pharis, Teresa Smith, Theresa, Amanda Villar, Chris Whitlock, Sarah Woodward*

Speaker(s): *President, Tim Sands*

Excused: *Sue Ellen Crocker, Patricia Donovan, Lee Ann Ellis, Brian Huddleston, Steve Nagle, Hannah Parks, Erin Poff, Jonathon Poff,*

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

The agenda was electronically submitted to senators on Wednesday, June 12, 2019. With no additions, the agenda was approved at the meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes

Approval of May 2019 minutes were done electronically.

Introduction of Virginia Tech President, Tim Sands given by Staff Senate President, Robert Sebek:

- Informal meeting in which Tim Sands answered questions and gave a brief update on Beyond Boundaries and Strategic Planning Process.

President, Tim Sands:

Tim Sands stated that 5 years ago we started looking at where we are at as a university and where we are going to be at in the future.

- Beyond Boundaries was a vision that reinforces the university's core values and established strengths, while considering two interrelated goals; advancing Virginia Tech as an internationally recognized, global land-grant and strategically addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the changing landscape of higher education. This vision insures a future for Virginia Tech without constraints of today's perspectives and perceived barriers. The vision will be shaped around our core values and established strengths, including our living motto, Ut Prosim, (That I may Serve). This will help reinforce our commitment to value, access and affordability: our rich land-grant tradition of community service and outreach; our strength in interdisciplinary collaboration that leverages the comprehensive nature of Virginia Tech; and our role in the commonwealth as a global portal for talent and partnerships through impactful research and technology development. These have included identification of destination and strategic growth areas and the design of new budgeting model.
- In the past two years, foundational projects from across the university were initiated to propel the

Beyond Boundaries vision.

- Amazon
- NOVA
- HQ2
- Partnering with Carilion
- 2nd build for Fralin Bio Institute
- 30 new research groups
- Streamline the enrollment of applications, which makes it more accessible to students in-state and out as well as other countries, this led to our enrollment surge this semester of more than 7,500 students. The university anticipated the enrollment to be around 6,600 however it exceeded that by 1,100.
- 53% more in-state enrollments (best in 10 years) and a record yield for International students.
- To accommodate for the surge of students
 - Academic scheduling will be enlarged,
 - Late (evening) classes and Friday classes
 - All classes will be filled to the Max
- Housing is being addressed
 - Hotels are being rented for the fall semester to house freshmen students
 - Spring is not usually an issue because some students will be transferring out in Jan.
 - Dorms will be doubling up and some may have three students if applicable.
- Dining options
 - More food trucks will be available
 - More dining halls will be available
- Strategic Planning Priorities.
 - Regional, National and Global Impact -Increase and sustain excellence in research, discovery and creativity
 - Ut Prosim Difference -Increase representational diversity and cultural competency.
 - Talent Destination – Attract, retain, and develop diverse and high achieving faculty and staff as well as prepare undergraduate and graduate and professional students.
 - Institutional Excellence- Continue to develop the physical campus and technology infrastructure, develop comprehensive and transparent budget and financial models and launch an adaptive, inclusive process for continuous strategic planning.

Tim Sands stated the university will continue to monitor the programs to ensure the university reaches its milestones by 2047.

Q and A session:

- Q: When we got the Beyond Boundaries scholarships, what do we have in place for first generation students?
A: There is a lot of work being provided and advising education assistance for these students.
 - We increased our scholarship this year by 4 million this year for low-income students
 - Assistance for middle income students that have financial issues as well
 - State allowed us to freeze the institute rate since we reached 6.3 million.
- Q: What is being done about the housing issues for students, staff and faculty?
A: We rented two hotels to help with housing the students.
 - We also will have property on Glad Road which will be housing for Faculty/Staff and grad students. This is a matter that we will continue address due to the growth of Virginia Tech.
 - Blacksburg and Christiansburg transit are working with Virginia Tech as well to make sure there is proper transportation for all.
- Q: Housekeeping is always short staffed, what is being done to help streamline on hiring more housekeepers?
A: Dwayne Pickney is working on this issue for On Boarding and Recruiting Staff.
Robert Sebek the President of Staff Senate assist on getting pay band 1 & 2 staff members a raise which we will feel will help in recruiting more housekeepers and facility employees.

President Sebek passed the Gavel to Tamarah Smith who starts her reign as Staff Senate President at the July meeting and Adjourned the meeting at 1:01p.m.

Next meeting: Welcome New Officers and Staff Senators

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is July 18, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at 2470 North End Center

Respectfully submitted:

Katrina Loan