

Staff Senate

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

August 15, 2019
Noon – 1:00pm
2470 North End Center

MINUTES

Attendees: *Lisa Bishop, LaTawya Burlison, Bruce Harper, Amy Ingram, Dani McNeil, Brandy Morse, Steve Nagle, MaDonna Overstreet, Sarah Owen, Tasia Persson, Robert Sebek, Tamarah Smith, Steve Tatum, Judy Taylor, Sue Teel, Amanda Villar, Serena Young*

Zoom Attendees: *Chris Akers, Nicole Akers, Robena Hughes, Joseph Goodman, Zerita Montgomery, Jonathon Poff, Kimberly Ridpath, Sally Shupe, Jamie Stein, Sarah Woodward*

Excused: *Judy Alford, Sue Ellen Crocker, Wayne Crotto, Pat Donovan, Velve Groover, Carolyn Hopkins, Katrina Loan, Heather Parrish, Jennifer Pike, Amber Robinson, Laura Steinberg, Chris Whitlock*

Call to order by Tamarah Smith at 12:01 pm

The agenda was sent out electronically 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 July 2019 minutes was done electronically.

Buzz Word: Beyond Boundaries – Mr. Sebek

- Initiative first brought up by President Sands
- Implemented through the Provost's Office
- 4 Thematic Areas
 - Global Land Grant – focused on issues that affect state of Virginia through Extension and its Global Reach
 - Preparing Students
 - Finding New Funding Models – partnering with industry to get funding
 - Campus of the Future – changing layouts and such
- 3 Concepts
 - VT Shaped Student – V is extracurricular activities and community engagement and the T is the broad scope depth within their major

- Communities of Discovery – changing the way classes are taught; work on problems together
- Nexxus of Discovery – idea that we are partnering with industry and government to do research and outreach
- These are really shown in the Strategic Plan
- How do we take this back to our offices
 - Budgeting Process
 - Not being so Blacksburg focused

Volunteer Opportunities – Ms. Smith

- Hokie Helpers – this week
 - Jennifer Pike setup a group to work Thursday afternoon
 - Link was sent out to sign up on Friday, August 16
- Looking for more opportunities

Please email Brandy Morse (brfoster@vt.edu) to let her know what committee you want to be on for this year

Staff Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees – Break Out Sessions

- Communication: Mr. Harper
 - Working on Benefits Fair and Staff Appreciation Day staffing of the table
 - Rotate people to go to New Employee Orientation to explain Staff Senate
 - Updating the brochure, webpage & Facebook
- Elections & Nominations: Ms. Taylor
 - Changes happening in the President’s Office
 - Working on a Google Drive to keep items current
 - Checking the database to make sure it is current
- Policies & Issues: Ms. Alford
 - Going to use this group to filter through any resolutions that get sent to Staff Senate
 - Updating Bylaws and Constitution
- McComas Leadership Seminar: Ms. Ingram
 - Working with Lisa Wilkes on making it more interactive this year
- Child Card (ad hoc): Ms. Loan – no updates
- Strategic Planning (ad hoc): Ms. Smith – no updates

Presentation on University Ombuds Office: Mauricio A. Ramos, Director of University Ombuds Office

- How to describe the Ombuds Office?
 - Deals with conflicts with a lot of creative thinking
 - Provide a forum to show people that they have a voice and to show options in any situation
 - Has no real power or authority to do anything
 - Reports directly to President Sands
 - Can tell leadership patterns and themes that they are noticing within the University
 - Creative way to support people
- Available to anyone in the Hokie Nation
- Here to show people other options that they make not see during a conflict or dilemma
- Different than HR because not formal, but still confidential
 - Does not report anything unless you give permission or if someone may talk about hurting people or themselves
 - Not required to report at all even for Title IX
- Discusses items with people
- Informal and independent
- If you want a meeting:
 - Email to schedule
 - Call to meet
 - Stop by his office – currently in Steger Hall
 - Willing to work with people outside of 8-5 if you can give him some notice
 - Will do Zoom meetings for those in other areas as well
 - Even making plans to visit Roanoke Campus and Northern VA campus as well
- Currently an office of 1, but working on getting more assistance in the office
- Website should be going live soon
 - Will have links for resources and such
- Not Employee relations, just another resource
- Supplement/Complement to HR

Next meeting: September 19, 2019 - 2470 North End Center

Adjournment at 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted:
Brandy Morse