

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

July 16, 2020
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Zoom
MINUTES

Attendees: Bruce Harper, Angel Carter, Michele Deramo, Amanda Villar, Amber Robinson, Andrea Kennedy, April Dow, Becki Smith, Brandon Lester, Brandy Morse, Chelsea Keating, Chris Whitlock, Douglas Hylton, Emily Sallade, Hannah Parks, Jennifer Pike, Jenny McCoy, Jessica Pharis, John Vile, Joseph Goodman, Justin Dalton, Kathy Wilkes, Katie Marie Meyer, Kelley Elliott, Kelly Ratcliffe, Kelly Wimmer, Kyle Richardson, Leisa Shelor, Lisa Bishop, Michele Messner, Molly Parker, Nicole and Chris Akers, Pat Donovan, Raksha Sharma, Rebecca Pearson, Sandie Worley, Sarah Owen, Sarah Taylor, Shelley Johnson, Sheree Montgomery, Silke Vrouletis, Sue Teel, Tasia Persson, Tim Grant, Zerita Montgomery, Tamarah Smith

Call to order at 12:00 p.m. by President, Tamarah Smith

The agenda was electronically submitted to senators on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. With no additions, the agenda was approved at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May and June Minutes was done electronically

Speaker: Michele Deramo, Assistant Provost of Diversity Education and Programs

Presentation: Response to a request by the LGBTQ communities

- Chosen Name and Identity Practice: FAQs for Faculty and Staff, <https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/names-pronouns/faculty-faqs.html>
- Chosen gender and gender pronoun will be part of the application process. This will not display unless the person makes the change
- What happens if I miss gender a student-accidentally?
 - Not unusual if it happens-recommended practice if pointed out.
 - Thank the person for letting you know and make a conscious effort to fix it.
- What if I am uncomfortable?
 - -VT has chosen this practice- it is a sign of respect.
- This is also for Faculty and Staff.
- Suspect a mistake- miss identification- How to have that conversation. If you're not sure you can use "they" pronoun. Should we correct it if it is an error?
 - Maybe ask the student to correct the information.

- All of us can go into HokieSpa to update our information.
- Making everyone feel comfortable.
- When you host a meeting give your personal pronouns
 - If you wish please include your pronouns.
 - Make it a choice because some individuals may not want to include them.

Diversity Summit is August 13th. Go to inclusive@vt.edu for the invitation

President Smith

Each year at this time we change committees that are offered in staff senate. If you are a senator/alternate you need to sign up for at least one committee. This year we will all join committee by Qualtrics (to be sent out after the August Staff Senate meeting). The main committees are: Communication, Policies and Issues, Nominations and McComas Seminar. There are two ad hoc committees:

- Child Care Committee – led by Robert Sebek. This is a huge priority especially with COVID19 happening.
- Strategic Planning Committee led by LaTawnya Burleson

Teleworking Options-

The university has encouraged teleworking for the fall semester given the success it was when a majority of positions were put into it with the pandemic this past spring.

Bryan Garey said that teleworking is an option and that health of our employees is the biggest concern.

There are concerns with the wording of the telecommuting policy however it's been shared that the policy is going to be updated.

McComas chair

Jennifer Earley has agreed to be our McComas Leadership Seminar chair this year

YOU MATTER

There are concerns with students coming back and what that can mean to the community if the virus is brought to campus. This is a scary time that we are in and we need to be careful and above all respectful to others. Remember we have resources at our university that are for our benefit. Like HR, ADA, Hokie Wellness, and Ombuds Office.

What can we do to ensure that we are safe?

Everyone should wear face coverings, always wash your hands well, and use antibacterial cleaner, make sure you are practicing safe distancing.

University needs to make a stronger stand about wearing masks-mandate from the Governor. This will be shared with our administration by staff senate president.

Meeting adjourned by President, Tamarah Smith