

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

December 21, 2020

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Amanda Villar, Amber Robinson, Andrea Kennedy, Angel Carter, April Myers, Bruce Harper, Chelsea Keating, Chris Akers, Chris Whitlock, Douglas Hylton, Ellen Plummer, Jackie Reid, Jamie Stein, Jennifer Earley, Jennifer Gallagher, Jennifer Pike, Judy Alford, Justin Dalton, Kelly Wimmer, LaTawnya Bureson, Leisa Shelor, Lisa Bishop, Nicole Akers, Pat Donovan, Rebecca Smith, Robert Sebek, Sally Shupe, Sandra Gabbert, Sarah Woodyard, Serena Young, Sheree Montgomery, Sue Teel, Judy Taylor, Velva Groover

Excused: Zerita Montgomery, Amy Ingram, Tamarah Smith, Tasia Persson

Call to order at 12:00 p.m. by Vice President, Serena Young

The agenda was electronically submitted to senators. With no additions, the agenda was approved at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the November Minutes were done electronically.

Presentations:

Governance 101: Ellen Plummer

- Authority-Governing Board
 - Virginia: Board of Visitors, Code of Virginia, and other state regulations (the university is a State Agency-two actually)
 - Board delegates “day to day” to the president
 - President delegates to selected senior administrators
- Representation
 - Over time (since the 1960’s) has expanded to include varied constituencies
 - Two Concepts
 - Various groups share in key decision-making processes (often through elected representation)
 - Allowing groups to exercise primary responsibility for specific areas of decision making
- Decision-making is contextual
 - Resources, politics, mission(s), politics, personalities, politics, relationships, resources, influence, politics....repeat
 - Views of the world
 - **Students** (and everyone else)
 - **Faculty** (and everyone else)

- **Administrators** (and everyone else)
 - **IT People** (and everyone else)
 - **Everyone Else** (and everyone else)
- Trends-Pressures-Forces-Issues-Opportunities-whatever
 - Demographic Shifts
 - Budgetary constraints
 - Increased compliance requirements from government agencies/regulations
 - Public perception of the cost vs value
 - Increased demands from students for ease of access and availability of services
- More Context
 - Shared governance-commitment to democracy
 - The creation + discovery of knowledge-messy and inefficient!
 - Privilege and prestige are currencies of the realm
 - Academic Freedom – protecting interrogation and discovery (no church or state inquisition)
 - Peer Review
 - Tenure
 - Teaching + Research
 - Independence
 - Multiple organizational cultures: disciplinary, academic, administrative, student, faculty, staff, stakeholders
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 - Vocabulary, dress, office operations, expectations, rewards
- Governance at Virginia Tech
 - Includes major constituent groups-internal and external to the university
 - Requires community to be informed, involved & knowledgeable
 - Best when there is communication
 - Council, Commissions, Senates (elected)
 - Caucuses, + other groups
- Shared Governance
 - Voice but not necessarily authority and Accountability
 - Benefits from abundant communication
 - Office of the VP for Governance and Policy (BOV, University Council + Commissions, University Policies
 - Curriculum: Office of the Registrar

Staff Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Updates:

Communications – Nothing to report, just keeping the website up to date and some occasional Facebook updates

Elections & Nominations – No Update

Policies and Issues – Been very busy.

- Commission on Research
- Commission on equal opportunity and diversity-including more members and changing rules and bylaws

McComas – Will be happening in the spring, will be virtual. However, it is still very important especially during this time. Getting back in the swing of things after the first of the year. HR has combined the nomination for Presidents Award for Excellence, Staff Career Achievement Award and the McComas award in one nomination period. Will start January 5th, 2021 and end February 15th. Look for that! Finalizing a speaker for the Seminar. Will not be 8 hours, shorter segments, over a two-day period. We still need a theme.

Child Care/Care Givers – Look in the daily emails for information about subsidies for Child Care. If you or someone you know qualifies please take advantage of this program.

Strategic Planning –Sent 5 members a welcome and some documents to begin work in January

Serena Young:

Staff Career Achievement Award: Jessica Pharis is looking for 3 people to volunteer. Please email Jessica if you are interested in helping out with this.

Update: CSPA approved for the joint resolution to go forward. Had second reading and approved that.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is January 21, 2021

Adjourned: 12:54

Respectfully Submitted:
Angel Carter