

Staff Senate
<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>
January 21, 2021
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Zoom
MINUTES

Attendees: Amanda Villar, Amber Robinson, Amy Splitt, Angel Carter, Brandon Lester, Brandy McCoy, Brittany May, Bruce Harper, Chelsea Keating, Chris Whitlock, Douglas Hylton, Hannah Parks, Jenni Gallagher, Jennifer Earley, Jennifer Pike, Jenny McCoy, Jody Humphreys, Justin Dalton, LaTawnya Burlison, Leisa Shelor, Lisa Bishop, Nicole Akers, Pat Donovan, Petie Martin, Rebecca Smith, Reese Ramos, Robena Hughes, Robert Sebek, Sally Shupe, Sarah Owen, Serena Young, Steven Nagle, Sue Teel, Tamarah Smith, Tasia Persson, Velva Groover, Zerita Montgomery

Excused: Judy Alford, and Kim Ridpath

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the January Minutes were done electronically.

Questions to Staff Senate from Staff Senate President, Tamarah Smith:

- How are things going in your departments?
- Are you still able to work from home or have you been asked to return into the office?
 - If so, do you feel safe?
 - Do you feel comfortable?
- How are you doing mentally and physically regarding COVID?
 - Please remember that we have 4 free sessions with a counselor through Virginia Tech

Presentations:

Director of University Om Buds Office: Reese Ramos

There are a number of resources available to staff to handle problems. If you are not sure where to turn for help or other means leave an issue unresolved, the University Ombuds Office provides individuals with a confidential space to speak freely and be listened to respectfully. The Ombuds Program, officially named the Virginia Tech Office of Interactive Communication & Empowerment (VOICE), helps you navigate through that sea of conflict when it comes up. The office is offering in-person appointments along with phone or video-conferencing options. To schedule an appointment please email OMBUDS@vt.edu or call and leave a message at (540)

231-3125. Your information will be treated confidentially. No one will even be told of your reaching out or meeting.

Staff Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Updates:

Child Care/Care Givers – One of the recommendations from the Child Care Task Force was to establish a limited position to coordinate child care issues and policies (and pick up some of the slack left by the closure of ABCS). Interviews will soon take place for finalists for this position. There will be an opportunity for Staff Senate Child Care Committee members to interact with the candidates.

Please remember to nominate someone for McComas Staff Leadership Award,
<https://www.hr.vt.edu/our-workplace/awards-recognition/awards/mccomas-staff-leadership.html>

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date is February 18, 2021

Adjourned: 1:06

Respectfully Submitted:
Angel Carter