

Staff Senate
<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>
February 18, 2021
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Zoom
MINUTES

No attendance was taken.

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.

Presentations:

Dr. Dwayne Pinkney, Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer

Dr. Bryan Garey, Vice President of Human Resources

Kevin Foust, Associate Vice President for Safety and Security

Dwayne - percentage of virtual work vs on site work

56% - are mostly or full remote working

30% - are fully working onsite

15% - are mostly onsite

Authorized Closing – the university uses authorized closing to take care of employee’s safety. When someone is doing virtual work, they are not putting themselves at risk in order to come to work. If an employee is working from home during an Authorized Closing and they lose power and/or internet service the employee should then be able to use the Authorized Closing. It is understood that some employees think that everyone should receive the day off but, that is not the purpose of this leave. Authorized Closing is for employee safety during this time. The university works off of the trust they have in their employees that they are being truthful about power, internet service, etc. during these closings.

Dwayne Pinkney –He also wants to thank staff for the great work done in the past year. He stated “we actually never stopped working”. The fall 2020 semester was successful, disrupted but never stopped.

He does agree with Bryan on the trust issue, there are employees that will abuse the system but it doesn't mean that it is the norm.

Question:

How do we see telework continuing when a normal is here? Can it continue in some form?

Dwayne: it will most likely be used in some area's but there isn't a one size fits all for this determination this will need to be discussed as needed.

Question:

Has VT found benefits to telework?

Dwayne: yes; it gives greater opportunity to cover during remodeling, space needs, figuring out who needs to be where, etc. VT has embraced the need for parents/caregivers needing flexibility on telework and working hours.

Bryan: thinks the spirit of flexibility will continue for staff.

Question:

It has been observed that there appears to be a trend with new job postings in that they are listed as part-time or restricted. Is this the case, and if so is there a reason?

Bryan: We are looking at the budget and several departments are looking at other creative ways to cover their needs.

Dwyane: There was an impact with the pandemic and the hiring freeze. Departments then looked at other ways to cover the needs and their budget as a means to cover their needs. This does not mean that is a trend.

Question:

I'm interested in the data on optimum amount of balance for staff members.

Dwayne - The flexibility it depends on the person the flexibility and the balance 3 onsite flexibility for the other 2 days, data says,

Budget:

Dwayne: House and Senate are now meeting. Unified amendment, funding for public institution of higher education increase of 4 million.

Financial Aid – House, 3 million+, Senate 150,000, Governor, 1.6 million.

Raise – House 3.5%, Senate 3%, Governor \$1500 bonus

CORP – requested \$360,000; House, \$150,000; Senate, \$0

Kevin: he gave a shout out to everyone that had to come out in the bad weather to keep us safe by keeping the sidewalks and parking lots clear.

Covid:

1A – health care workers and those in long term care facilities.

1B – front line workers, those over 65+, those that are 16 – 64 with underlying conditions.

1C – covers most everyone (the largest group), hopeful that this will happen prior to May depending on the supply.

1st shot, need to wait 15 minutes once you get the shot

2nd shot, will be automatically scheduled once you get the 1st shot.

Please make sure you keep your registered appointment because once the vaccine is thawed it must be used then. Also, once you receive the vaccine you can still get the virus and you can still be contagious to others and not know it.

There are plans for VT to have a community clinic, there have been a few drive thru clinics but that requires more workers onsite. CVS now has about 1000 shots per week.