

Minutes, July 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

The meeting opened at 12:00 pm by Serena Young, president.

Agenda approved

Minutes have been approved for May, there are no minutes for June due to President Sands speaking

Serena Young announced that Jeri Baker from Parking Services will be scheduled to speak at the August meeting, Bryan Garey will speak in September about the new performance management system, and Dr. Sands will be invited to speak in June.

Discussion

- **Staff Senate Committees**

- Communications Committee - Bruce Harper gave an overview of needs and possibilities. The committee needs a chair and members who can assist with the Benefits Fair and Staff Appreciation Day to staff an information table. Other needs are to create a Twitter feed if that might be useful and to revise and update the Staff Senate brochure.
- Policies and Issues - LaTawnya Burleson -- The main focus of this committee is to read resolutions passed on through the governance system, respond, and pass on to the Staff Senate any that need discussion/vote due to impact on staff. There is a chair, so we just need members.
- Elections and Nominations - Tasia Persson -- this committee runs elections for Staff Senate and seeks nominees to fill positions on Commissions and Committees in the governance system. The committee is always looking at ways to streamline the process. Sheree Montgomery will be the chair (sheree@vt.edu).
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ad hoc committee -- Tasia Persson will be the interim chair of this Staff Senate committee and is looking for members. There are training modules available on these topics and the committee will be looking for more things to work on.
- Child Care ad hoc committee -- The Staff Senate will continue this internal committee, but it needs a chair. This will feed into the university child care committee.
- McComas Leadership Conference -- Jennifer Early will continue as chair -- Tamarah explained the background of this conference, which the committee sets the date for, lines up speakers, and works with Human Resources on funding and other issues. Last year it was all virtual; determine the best way to do it this year.

There is a survey for Senators and Alternates to select a committee on which to serve:

https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bfKCeNCI3g3RTIW

- **Discussion of upcoming potential topics**

Last year's presentation by Michael Freedlander about the medical school and research center in Roanoke was mentioned as a good example of things happening beyond the Blacksburg campus. It was suggested that other programs like that be lined up to show other parts of Virginia Tech, especially outside of Blacksburg.

TLOS (Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies) and the professional development folks were suggested as speakers since they have some awesome content available.

It was suggested to invite someone from the VT Police Department and the IT Security Office to talk about the various scams, phishing attempts, etc. that target the university community.

Hokie Wellness is always a great group to present on its programs.

Serena Young passed on that staff are not required to get the COVID vaccine, but it is possible to request an exemption due to medical or religious reasons. Reach out to the ADA Office, Pam Vickers and Harrison Blythe, for assistance.

Public Health Emergency Leave (PHEL) expired on June 30, 2021. PHEL was a leave benefit activated during the pandemic due to the Public Health Emergency declaration. The university was notified after leave reports had been submitted, and all approved leave time recorded as PHEL will be honored. See <https://vtx.vt.edu/notices/2021/07/hr-phel-expiration072021.html>

There was a question regarding the COVID vaccination becoming a requirement for employment? Response was no, not as of yet.

There being no further discussion or questions, the meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce B. Harper
Staff Senate Secretary