

## **MINUTES**

**Staff Senate  
August 21, 2025  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**2420/2430 North End Center and Zoom - <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88910772550>**

**Present:** Amber Hagan, President, Gabe Petry, Jasmine Boyd, Clay Crumpler, Alma DeLeon, Kristen Cox, Robert (R.C.) Cooley, Deidra (Dee) Hopkins, Michelle Raines, Christina Winkeler, Andrea Green, Wendy Hodge, Amanda Pester, Serena Young, Misti Acosta, Tamarah Smith, Denise Crawford, Amie Pendleton, LaTawnya Burleson, Joseph Goodman, Sarah Owen, Amanda Frazee, Sophia Minor, Kathaleen (Katey) Carr, Kayla Robertson

**Absent with Notice:** Pat Donovan, Amy Ingram, Amber Robinson, Jennifer Pike, Mary Sullivan, Kari Evans, Frank Kerr.

**Absent:** Benjamin Alden, Brian Huddleston, Chris Whitlock, Stephanie Picado.

**Guests:** Teresa Sweeny, Presenter, Abigail Middleton, Alene Harris, Annie Machner, April Myers, Bernice Cacas, Danielle Miller, Demitria (Dee Dee) Somervell, Diane Bonsall, Jody Humphreys, Julie Hammond, Kelly Peeler, Laura Rasnick Lizzy Ogle, Marsha Wright, Marty Wyatt, Rebecca Smith, Ronna Reed, Sally Blanchard, Emily Simpson, Maya Simmons, Grey Kieffer.

Amber Hagan called the meeting to order at 12:02. A quorum was present with 27 of 38 senators.

### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

### **2. Approval of minutes of July 17, 2025.**

A motion was made to approve the July meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Tamarah Smith and seconded by Kayla Robertson. Minutes will be posted for public access on the Governance Website: [governance.vt.edu](https://governance.vt.edu)

### **3. Presentation**

Teresa Sweeny, Waste and Recycling Manager, presented on Waste and Recycling Operations at Virginia Tech

Teresa discussed waste reduction efforts on campus, including the implementation of new bin labels and containers, which are being phased in due to budget constraints. She emphasized proper recycling practices, such as emptying containers before recycling, flattening boxes, and not bagging recyclables. Teresa addressed questions about recycling services for off-campus locations and specific building concerns, noting that services are limited to Blacksburg properties. She also highlighted the importance of correct recycling choices in reducing landfill waste and conserving resources. She encouraged if you have any questions or concerns to contact her directly via email at [msrecycle247@vt.edu](mailto:msrecycle247@vt.edu).

### **4. Unfinished Business - President Amber Hagan**

#### **Senator Vacancies**

- Amber noted that we do still have senator vacancies, if anyone is interested in serving please reach out to a Staff Senate Officer.

## **5. New Business - President Amber Hagan**

### **Staff Senate Committee Chair Announcement**

The following individuals will be serving as chair(s) for the Staff Senate Committees for 2025-2026. Thanks were given to everyone who was willing and able to make these commitments.

- Communications – Kayla Robertson, Sophia Minor
- Staff Engagement and Access – LaTawnya Burleson, Sophia Minor
- Elections and Nominations – Amy Ingram, Jasmine Boyd
- McComas Leadership Seminar Planning – Nikki Gland-Turpin
- Policies and Issues – Gabe Petry

## **6. Reports**

- Board of Visitors Recap by President Amber Hagan. Minutes from meeting are also available online: [2025 Minutes - Board of Visitors](#)

## **7. Other Items**

- Polls shared with attendees for engagement and collaboration
  - What College are you in?
  - What do you want to see accomplished here?

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:49. Motion to adjourn by Gabe Petry and seconded by Tamarah Smith.

Next meeting will be Thursday September 18, 2025 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in Gilbert Place 3002 and via zoom <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88910772550>