

MINUTES

Staff Senate

October 17, 2024

12:00 p.m.

virginiatech.zoom.us/j/89618402157

Present: LaTawnya Burleson (presiding), Misti Acosta, Benjamin Alden, Angel Carter, Zai Cook, Denise Crawford, Alma DeLeon, Nikki Gland-Turpin, Joseph Goodman, Andrea Green, Mimi Harris, Amanda Hill, Amy Ingram, Frank Kerr, Amanda Pester, Gabe Petry, Stephanie Picado, Jennifer Pike, Amber Robinson, Sally Shupe, Tamarah Smith, Mary Sullivan, Chris Whitlock, and Serena Young.

Absent with Notice: Callan Bartel, Pat Donovan, Kari Evans, Amie Pendleton, and Tasia Persson.

Absent: Robin Cooley, Kristen Cox, Amber Hagan, Dee Hopkins, Petie Martin, Ron Mecham, Dennie Munson, Eric Newton, Sarah Owen, Michelle Raines, Sasha Simpkins, Eric Tysor, and Christina Winkeler.

Guests: Ana Agud, Chris Akers, Nicole Akers, Jasmine Boyd, Sammi Kent, John Leech, Michelle Loy, Jenn Million, April Myers, Neil Rickmond, Nasim Schwab, and Dee Dee Somervell.

President Burleson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 29, 2024

President Burleson noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu

3. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

4. New Business

No new business

5. Presentation

Ana Agud, Manager of Work/Life Programs, gave a presentation on Hokie Wellness. She introduced the Hokie Wellness team and their roles. She guided attendees through the Hokie Wellness website, newsletter, and how to request programs. Ana highlighted resources for employees, including childcare partnerships, parent support, lactation rooms, and the Perk Spot discount platform. She emphasized the Employee Assistance Program, Virginia Cares program, and mental health resources. Ana reminded employees about the voluntary National Faculty Staff Health Assessment launching Monday to gauge physical and mental well-being.

6. Other Items

President Burleson presented the Staff Recognition award to Neil Rickman. The winning nomination is attached. Please submit future nominations here: <https://forms.gle/C65u32JJeiLx7wdFA>

President Burleson then provided updates on the base pay change, which will take effect on October 25th, and the creation of a task force to study staff and non-student wage compensation. She mentioned that the task force will be comprised of members from the university, including HR and other departments. Lisa Wilkes, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Special Assistant to the President, has been charged with convening the task force.

8. Announcements

The November Staff Senate meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. An Outlook calendar invite will be sent out prior to the meeting.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

Staff Recognition Winner October 17, 2024

Winner: Neil Rickmond

Nominator: John Leech

Why are you submitting them for recognition?

Neil does a phenomenal job as the OUR's IT tech. As the office that holds all student records, Neil has to be extra agile in security but also general support of the large staff we have to support Virginia Tech's operations. Ask anyone in the office, Neil always goes above and beyond for each individual, merging technical needs with functional individual assistance. He is known as an incredibly kind human, and constantly chatting anyone up to make sure they are seen, comfortable, and enjoy their day. Lastly, Neil has been called to support the Enrollment Management division multiple times for things such as onboarding and campus presentations/events. Neil is way more than our technical support, he is one of VT's kindest, most humble, dependable, dedicated individuals that we are all lucky to know.

What qualities does this person possess that you would like to highlight? (kindness, teamwork, leadership, etc.)

Kindness, humble, dependable, dedicated, genuine

Are there any specific actions, events, etc. that you would like to highlight?

Neil always goes beyond his role with a smile, including supporting other offices in times of need, VPs, and even campus-wide initiatives led by the CIO. He also takes every action to heart and with an individualistic approach where often people can feel things can be more transactional in nature (e.g., new hardware, security training, physical space needs, etc.) - not with Neil.