

MINUTES

Staff Senate

November 21, 2024

12:00 p.m.

Gilbert Place 3003 and zoom; virginiatech.zoom.us/j/89618402157

Present: LaTawnya Burleson (presiding), Misti Acosta, Benjamin Alden, Callan Bartel, Zai Cook, Denise Crawford, Alma DeLeon, Pat Donovan, Kari Evans, Joseph Goodman, Andrea Green, Amber Hagan, Amanda Hill, Dee Hopkins, Frank Kerr, Petie Martin, Sarah Owen, Amie Pendleton, Tasia Persson, Gabe Petry, Stephanie Picado, Michelle Raines, Amber Robinson, Sally Shupe, Chris Whitlock, and Serena Young.

Absent with Notice: Angel Carter, Nikki Gland-Turpin, Amy Ingram, and Mary Sullivan.

Absent: Robert Cooley, Kristen Cox, Ron Mecham, Dennie Munson, Eric Newton, Amanda Pester, Jennifer Pike, Sasha Simpkins, Eric Tysor, and Christina Winkeler.

Guests: Greg Beecher, Lee Bishop, Diane Bonsall, Jenna Booth, Jasmine Boyd, Alyson Bryson, Robert Crafton, Reo Garrett, Michael Hall, Allison Hamborsky, Mimi Harris, Wendy Hodge, Sammi Kent, Adam Lane, Michele Loy, Brandy McCoy, Daniella Miller, Jenn Million, Erin Olson, Amber Pifer, Ronna Reed, Brianna Saville-Reynolds, Shelley Seckers, Becki Smith, Philip Smith, John Warner, and Marsha Wright.

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 October 17, 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

Shelley Seckers, Assistant Director in Financial Management, introduced the Fiscal Training Program's offerings to support team's learning goals for the year. Shelley discussed various productivity techniques, including the Pomodoro technique, and the use of painter's tape to create a to-do list on a wall. She also highlighted the training team's offerings, including four main certificate programs and additional programs like mastering MicroStrategy and systems training. Shelley emphasized the importance of feedback for developing more resources and encouraged staff to join

the training program. The session ended with a timekeeper activity to help staff members identify their learning goals for the year.

Dr. Greg Beecher, Director of Talent Development in Human Resources, discussed the findings and recommendations from the university's Climate Survey. He highlighted areas of improvement, such as job satisfaction, workload, and compensation, and mentioned the need for increased awareness and action in areas like inclusion, diversity, and leadership effectiveness. Greg proposed several strategies to address these issues, including the development of MyCareerStream with various resources, hosting a SOAR session to identify departmental strengths and aspirations, and sharing the survey results and action plans with senior management areas. He encouraged all employees to contribute to these efforts.

6. Other Items

Vice President Bartel presented the Staff Recognition award to Reo Garrett. The winning nomination is attached. Please submit future nominations here: <https://forms.gle/C65u32JJeiLx7wdFA>

President Burleson then provided updates on the task force to study compensation for staff and non-student wages at Virginia Tech. The task force is expected to start in early 2025 and will comprise members from each Senate, leadership, HR, and the President's office.

7. Announcements

There is no meeting in December. The next Staff Senate meeting is January 16, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. An Outlook calendar invite will be sent out prior to the meeting.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Staff Recognition Winner

November 21, 2024

Winner: Reo Garrett

Nominator: Benjamin Alden

Why are you submitting them for recognition?

I feel like Reo Garrett is an unsung hero of the CALS IT Help Desk. He frequently picks up all active support tickets in our queue and then if any of us are stuck on a particularly tough ticket he will provide guidance or even have us reassign the ticket directly to him.

He does all of this without seeking credit as he never mentions it to us but one of the most common things I hear when I'm out delivering computers or installing software is some version of "Reo helped me with this earlier" or "Reo remoted in and installed this for me" I hear this from pretty much every person I help.

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

Selflessness, Teamwork, Leadership, Helpful

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

There was a situation where a lab needed software from Windows 7 on a Windows 11 machine and we were stuck as the installer would no longer work. After a lot of troubleshooting Reo got the physical CD, ran it on a Linux distro, grabbed the part of the installer we needed from the temp folder, and then put it on a USB for me to go install on the lab machine. That is a tremendous amount of work and ingenuity and in the end he handed it to me to take credit for but I made sure the owner of the lab knew that Reo had really done something special to get this to work for them.

Another situation that comes to mind was I had a long standing ticket that was stuck in my queue right before I went on vacation and when I asked Reo about it he just said to transfer it to him, enjoy my vacation, and he'd take care of it. When I got back I went to check his queue to take the ticket back and saw that he had indeed resolved it.