

MINUTES

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
Thursday, February 5, 2026
1:00 pm
Zoom

Present – Gabe Petry (presiding), Judy Alford, Becky Bott-Knutson, Lacey Doyle, Dwayne Edwards, Brandi Evans, Sara Lucy, Rachel Miles, Sophia Minor, James Perkins, Michelle Raines, Kayla Robertson, and Aqab Zahoor.

Absent with Notice: Amber Hagan

Absent: Chelle Ferguson, Clay Crumpler, and Nikki Gland-Turpin.

Guests: Kari Evans and April Myers.

Gabe Petry called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of November 6, 2025.

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

3. Discussion

The discussion mainly focused on changes to bereavement leave policy, with Gabe inviting Teresa Lyons to attend the next CSPA meeting after researching the community service leave program (history, implementation, resolution language, and operational details). The commission will then draft a proposal for a resolution for bereavement leave (amount tentatively set at 24 hours).

Gabe will also ask Teresa Lyons and the Employee Benefits Committee to research and advise on current policies and possible improvements or clarifications regarding authorized closing, telework, and emergency personnel compensation during university closures, including the language and application of policies for both hybrid, fully remote, and emergency staff.

4. Announcements

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m.