MINUTES

Staff Senate
July 16, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
2440 North End Center and Zoom

Present – Vice President Gabe Petry, Amanda Pester, Amie Howard (Pendleton), Andrea Green, Caleb Spencer, Denise Crawford, James Kittinger, Jasmine Boyd, Joseph Goodman, Katherine "Katie" Bisset, Kayla Robertson, LaTawnya Burleson, Lori Greiner, Mary Sullivan, Demetria "Mimi" Harris, Misti Acosta, Pat Donovan, Thonda Hawley, Stephen Gilmore, Tamarah Smith, Wendy Hodge

Absent with Notice: Amber Hagan, Emily Simpson, Nikki Gland-Turpin, Kelly McPherson

Absent: Kristen Cox, Brian Huddleston, Chris Whitlock, Jennifer Pike, Chelle (Stella) Darr Furguson, Angel Carter, Bernise Casas, Clay Crumpler, Pamela Zapp, Marynard Hoover, Kathaleen "Katey" Carr, Sophia Minor

Guests: Amanda Boone, Angelina Greene, April Myers, Belinda Sterling, Branden King, Cara Roberts, Christopher Barb, Demetria "Dee Dee" Somervell, Elizabeth Manns, Gina Smith, Jiada Smith, Jo Ellen Surface, Jody Humphreys, Julia Hazlewood, Kari Evans, Kelly Peeler, Laura Rasnick, Leigh Beatty, Lisa Cash, Marsha Wright, Mary Zabonik, Neil Bradish, Sally Shupe, Samantha Fenton, Sara Phillips, Tyler Wiltshire

Vice President Gabe Petry called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. **Adoption of Agenda**

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

2. **Presentation – Ashley Carter, Division of HR Talent Acquisition Team**

   Ashley presented the new recruitment marketing website jobs.apply.vt.edu and the VT Voices program to improve the candidate experience at Virginia Tech. She explained how the website provides a more user-friendly job search experience with better organization of faculty and staff roles, enhanced search tools, and improved information about benefits and the university. The VT Voices component features current employees sharing their experiences and answering candidate questions to help build connections and trust during the hiring process.

3. **Approval of June 18th 2026 Staff Senate meeting minutes.**

   - A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

4. **Unfinished Business**

   Second Reading and Vote – Proposal to make an amendment to Bylaw Article IV: Meetings
   Second reading reviewed the recommended changes made in first reading. Vote was held and passed, proposal was approved.

   Senator Vacancies Announced
   Vice President for Campus Planning and Facilities (3 vacancies)

Committee Vacancies Announced
Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee (CASE)
Library Committee (LC)

5. **New Business**

Senator Appointments - Vote
A senator vote was held and passed for Angela Worrell to be appointed a Senator representing College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
A senator vote was held and passed for Jo Surface to be appointed a Senator representing Vice President for Student Affairs

Meeting Time Accessibility Survey
Survey results were reviewed and it was agreed that the Third Thursday monthly at 10:00 a.m. would be the new meeting time beginning September 17th, 2026. This can be reassessed in the future to see how attendance and participation is impacted.

Staff Senator Constituency Group Review
It was announced that the senator constituency groups will be reviewed by CSPA and potentially restructured to improve representation and clarity.

6. **Reports**

- Success of Staff Senate 101 Presentation
- No Committee/Commission Reports were announced
- Presidential Search Updates are posted online. There will be a listening session for Staff on August 27th at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Other Items**

- Gabe Petry presented the Staff Recognition award to staff members who received nominations for their exceptional work and dedication.

8. **Announcements**

- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. In-person attendance is encouraged at 2420 North End Center. Zoom will also be available. Guest speaker to be announced
- Updates to the Staff Senate website include a form to submit questions, comments, concerns, etc. to Staff Senate Leadership
- If you are not presently on the Staff Senate email listserv or Microsoft Teams channel and want to be added to stay informed, contact Jasmine Boyd.
- Reminder that this is working time and to be sure to take a lunch break.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.