

STAFF SENATE MINUTES
July 16, 2009

The Staff Senate General Meeting was called to order by Cindy Eller at 9:00 a.m. in the Hurlburt Student Center Combo Room.

Senators and Alternates Present: Roland Beland, Tommy Cochran, Hashim Durrani, Cindy Eller, John Leonard, Sandra Long, Rhonda McCroskey, Cheryl Myers, Sandra Steele, Bob Underwood, Trina Wall, Anita Woodyard-Dotson.

Advisors/Liaisons Present: Kathy Nester, Benny Skeens, Lisa Lorton.

Senators Excused: Jo Thomas, Pam Caldwell, Bobby Bell, Betty Smith, Tania Clarkson.

Number of other attendees: 13 – *List to be made available upon request.*

Determination of a quorum was made.

Motion submitted by Roland Beland, seconded by Cheryl Myers, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion submitted by Sandra Steele, seconded by Kathy Nester, to approve the recorded minutes from the June 18, 2009 general meeting. Motion carried.

Cindy Eller welcomed Addis Ainsley to the meeting. Addis briefly introduced himself as the new Safety Director for Radford University.

Dr. Douglas Mitchell, Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy spoke about the field of Occupational Therapy. At Radford University the curriculum for the program was developed and put in place almost a year ago. Dr. Mitchell thanked everyone involved in the development process. Currently, 15 graduate students are enrolled in the fall semester with 70-80 anticipated within the next two years. Students are being recruited from rural areas in Southwest Virginia. While Radford University's primary objective is to educate students, retaining them in careers in the area is an equally important focus. The program will be financially stable, paying for itself. Within two years increased undergraduate enrollment is expected to produce revenues. Over the last twenty years Occupational Therapy has become one of the top ten growing professions. Radford University's program is two and a half years long with seven academic semesters. The program runs year round with students completing twelve to fourteen credits each semester. Five semesters are completed on campus and two are completed in the field. Dr. Mitchell gave a little history about the field of Occupational Therapy, which has been around for many

years. The profession involves all those daily, meaningful activities, e.g., work, rest, play, etc. Quoting Thomas Jefferson, Dr. Mitchell said Occupational Therapy is how you occupy yourself every day at home, in your community educationally, and vocationally, it's the "driving force of peoples' lives".

Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Policies & Issues – no report
- b. Elections and Nominations – Kathy Nester gave a report of the recent election combining Public Relations and University Advancement. Tania Clarkson was elected as the new senator but was unable to attend the meeting due to training. No alternate was established. The position was declined when presented at the end of the election.
- c. Communications – no report
- d. Staff and Relations – Carolyn Sutphin reported on the Fill-a-Book Bag campaign. The Salvation Army will be picking up book bags, supplies, etc. on Thursday, July 30th around 8 a.m. All supplies need to be turned in to Carolyn at the latest on Wednesday, July 29th at Noon. Money provided to buy supplies should be given to Carolyn by July 27th. For folks donating money to the Salvation Army, checks should be written to the Salvation Army and delivered to Carolyn by July 29th.

Reports from University-wide Committees

Cindy Eller reported that committee appointments and notifications were made. An updated list will be provided to Carolyn Sutphin to post to the Staff Senate website.

- a. Diversity & Equity Action – no report
- b. Intercollegiate Athletics – no report
- c. Parking and Traffic – no report
- d. Budget and Planning – no report
- e. University Executive – no report
- f. Dining Services Advisory Committee – no report
- g. Bookstore Advisory Committee – no report
- h. Centennial Committee – no report

Old Business

- a. Ice Cream Social – The Staff Senate Ice Cream Social is scheduled for August 19th from 1-3 pm outside the Hurlburt Center. In the event of rain it will be moved inside. Cindy Eller will send out a sign-up sheet to all senators and alternates to sign up to dip ice cream.

New Business

- a. Facebook – Cindy Eller recently created a Staff Senate Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=99949628329>. Pictures will be taken and posted. A Historian has been appointed to take pictures at Staff Senate events for this purpose.

Human Resources Issues

Lisa Lorton attended the meeting for Larry Ashby. She had no report.

Comments & Announcements

Kathy Nester discussed an announcement by Governor Kaine regarding an inaugural Virginia Telework Day on August 3. Lisa Lorton from Human Resources stated that Human Resources received a press release yesterday. Specific information was not yet available.

The next Staff Senate meeting is Thursday, September 17, 2009 in Hurlburt Combo Room.

Adjournment: - Motion by Kathy Nester, seconded by Cheryl Myers to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.

*/s/ Sandra Steele, Acting Recording Secretary
Minutes pending approval at September 2009 meeting.*