

STAFF SENATE MINUTES

February 18, 2016

The Staff Senate General Meeting was called to order by the Staff Senate President Marie Testerman at 9:00 a.m. in the Hurlburt Combo Room.

Senators and Alternates Present: Marie Testerman, , Pam Duncan, Gloria Tuckwiller, Chris Shelor, Lida Mitchell, Kara Pfaff as a consultant

Advisors/Liaisons Present: Christina Brogdon

Number of other attendees: List to be made available upon request

Marie Testerman called the meeting to order

A quorum was present

Agenda for February 18, 2016 was approved

Reports from Standing Committees:

- a. Policies & Issues – No report.
- b. Elections and Nominations - No report.
- c. Communications - No report.
- d. Staff and Community Relations – No report.

Reports from University-Wide Committees:

- a. Diversity & Equity Action – No report. Kara stated they are planning on meeting
- b. Intercollegiate Athletics – No report.
- c. Parking and Traffic – No report. – Pam stated that they have been meeting and selected an appeals committee to review appeals on parking tickets.
- d. Budget and Planning – No report.
- e. University Executive – No report.
- f. Dining Services Advisory committee – No report.
- g. Bookstore Advisory Committee – No report.

Old business:

Karen Montgomery needs more information and articles for the next News Letter.

New business:

Marie Testerman introduces President Kyle, Radford University's 6th President and first female President.

President Kyle will retire on June 30, 2016. She is looking forward to her retirement and doesn't know what her plans will be once she does retire. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family. After her VRS (Virginia Retirement Systems) meeting she encouraged everyone to attend more than one meeting. There is too much information to comprehend in just one meeting.

President Kyle did not want to reflect on what she had accomplished at Radford University but she asked the audience "What was left undone"? Some comments were:

1. Some staff members have difficulty attending the Staff Picnic because of lack of coverage for their office.
 - a. Alternate lunch schedules were suggested
 - b. Transfer phones with approval to other areas/departments
 - c. Christina Brogdon said the supervisors should encourage their Staff to go to the picnic
 - d. It was suggested that the picnic could be moved to the quad on campus. Staff Senate will check on this.
2. All employees are not able to work summer hours
 - a. Again this all depends on each offices situation. Employees alternating schedules, providing coverage until five o'clock, and also offices helping each other.
 - b. The President's office does not work summer hours because they have to stay open until five o'clock in case Richmond contacts them.
3. Dress code for Friday Spirit Day is not clearly defined for everyone. The attire can be casual but still appropriate for a work related environment. No blue jeans, flip flops, or other logos except Radford University We have parents and visitors on campus and we want to promote Radford University, not other colleges and universities.
4. Last year the announcement about summer hours was sent out late to staff.
5. Need more areas on campus that have Lactation rooms and that conveniently located.

Summer Hours, Spirit Friday's, Ice Cream social, and the Picnic are all benefits for the employees.

President Kyle has recommended that Christina Brogdon and Staff Senate get together and discuss some of these issues mentioned above.

There are plans for the Fairfax Buildings to be torn down in the future.

When the new buildings are demolished there will be a lot of moving around for offices. Some may have to move more than once.

President Kyle was asked about the new construction of buildings and why some buildings were never constructed. She talked about the Strategic plans. Plans are made several years in advance. When the time comes for those plans, they may not benefit the university any longer, and would need to be changed. Some of the changes move the buildings to new locations, and this causes it to appear the buildings were never completed.

The question was asked why the decision was made to change from being RU to Radford University. President Kyle stated she was not involved in making the decision to change from RU to Radford University. She did comment that people were associating RU for Rutgers University.

An ideal enrollment for Radford University is approximately 2000 graduate and 8000 undergraduate students.

There was also discussion about Radford University's switch board. Callers are being transferred to several departments before reaching the appropriate area. There is a need to have more information provided in order to be able to assist people when they call. President Kyle suggested the IT and University Relations could discuss this.

President Kyle plans on addressing some of these issues before she leaves.

President Kyle ended the discussion with kind and thoughtful words for the staff at Radford University. She stated that the staff was the back bone of this institution. She commented on how pleased she was when visitors noticed how friendly the Housekeeping and the Grounds employees were. She expressed how much she will miss Radford University and she would be back to visit.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Hurlburt Hall 249/250.

/s/ Pamela R Duncan, Recording Secretary

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