

Employee Benefits Committee Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Via Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/87150906361>

Present: Teresa Lyons (presiding), LaTawnya Burleson, Jessica Crawford, Rodney Gaines, Sandra Gabbert, Jennifer Jones, GQ Lu, Lauren Pollard, and Christine Smith.

Absent with Notice: Amanda Hill

Absent: Leisa Shelor and Jeff Walling.

Guests: Callan Bartel and Kari Evans.

Teresa Lyons called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

2. Announcements

No announcements

3. Discussion

Callan Bartel, the chair of the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs (CSPA) and Vice President of Staff Senate, joined the meeting to discuss the lack of a bereavement leave policy for staff at Virginia Tech and the need for such a policy based on research conducted on other universities' practices. She previewed the bereavement leave policies of various universities including University of Virginia, James Madison University, George Mason University, William & Mary, Virginia Commonwealth University, Duke, and Cornell. The policies varied in terms of the number of days allowed, whether the leave buckets were separate from sick leave, and whether they differentiated between faculty and staff. Callan concluded her presentation with the hope that a bereavement policy be applied uniformly across all Virginia Tech employees and regardless of the type of relative being bereaved.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.