

# MINUTES

**Staff Senate**  
**November 20, 2025**  
**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**2420 North End Center and Zoom - <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88910772550>**

**Present:** President Amber Hagan, Jasmine Boyd, Kristen Cox, Stella Chelle Furguson, Amanda Pester, Andrea Green, Chris Whitlock, Christina Winkeler, Deidra (Dee) Hopkins, Michelle Raines, Misti Acosta, Stephanie Picado, Amie Pendleton, Angel Carter, LaTawnya Burleson, Nikki Gland-Turpin, Serena Young, Clay Crumpler, Sarah Owen, Gabe Petry, Kayla Robertson, Sophia Minor, Kathaleen (Katey) Carr

**Absent with Notice:** Patricia (Pat) Donovan, Amber Robinson, Wendy Hodge, Mary Sullivan, Denise Crawford, Kari Evans, Frank Kerr

**Absent:** Benjamin Alden, Robert (RC) Cooley, Amy Ingram, Brian Huddleston, Jennifer Pike, Tamarah Smith, Joseph Goodman, Kathaleen (Katey) Carr

**Guests:** Amber Pifer, April Myers, Daniella Miller, Demitria (Dee Dee) Somervell, Jody Humphreys, Julie Hammond, Laura Rasnick, Marsha Wright, Maya Simmons, Ronna Reed, Sammi Kely,

President Hagan called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. A quorum was present.

## **1. Presentation by Henry Yampolsky - Assistant Director, Civil Rights Compliance**

- Henry Ampolsky led a presentation that highlighted challenges with an exercise that showed the importance of clear communication. Henry then facilitated discussions on communication skills, emphasizing the importance of intentional communication, observation vs. evaluation, understanding underlying issues rather than focusing on immediate solutions, and transformative approaches to conflict resolution. Office for Civil Rights Compliance and Prevention Education is available for all needs and can be contacted at [civilrights@vt.edu](mailto:civilrights@vt.edu) for further council and resources.

## **2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 15, 2025.**

- President Hagan noted that these minutes can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: [governance.vt.edu](http://governance.vt.edu)

## **3. Other Items**

- President Hagan covered several vacancies within Staff Senate and University Governances and need to be filled and requested anyone who is interested to reach out to Jasmine Boyd or Amy Ingram.
- President Hagan presented the Staff Recognition award to several staff members who received nominations for their exceptional work and dedication.

## **4. Announcements**

- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Location is still to be determined, and zoom will be available.

## **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 p.m.