Commission on Classified Staff Affairs Agenda
March 9, 2006
3:30 p.m., 325 Burruss Hall

Present: Judy Alford, Jean Brickey for Walter Hartman, Sue Ellen Crocker, April Hylton for Gerhardt Schurig, Kenneth Miller, Fred Piercy, Wyatt Sasser, Becky Saylors, Jon Wooge

Absent: Catherine Caldwell, Erin Cwick, Chanda Dodd, Carolyne Dudding, Mike Freel, Kellie Morris, Shelly Nickols-Richardson, Diane Reaver, Linda Woodard

Guests: Ray Plaza, Office of Multicultural Affairs

Chair Judy Alford called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The agenda was approved as presented.

1. Guest Speaker: Ray Plaza, Projects Specialist for Diversity Initiative, Multicultural Affairs Office

Ray Plaza also serves as the chair of the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD). There has been discussion in various groups on campus regarding the sense that there is a growing gap between faculty and staff. Areas of concern discussed include: professional development where funding is provided for faculty, but little or none for classified; ability to participate in governance—often staff members have to give up their lunch hours to participate or are not allowed to participate during working hours; treatment of staff by faculty; requiring conviction checks for staff while not they are not required for faculty working in same area; perceived restrictions on payment by the Controller’s Office for certifications pursued by staff; varying treatment of staff in different departments, particularly regard sick leave usage. Frequently, when administrators and spokespersons speak to the media and other groups, they will talk about the faculty and students, but never mention staff.

2. Reports:

- Benefits Committee – Wyatt Sasser
  The committee met on February 23. Topics included: short term disability for grant-funded faculty; Roth 403b plans; ORP oversight committee; agreement between SW Virginia Oncology and Anthem announced; and upcoming open enrollment for health care, including a new high deductible plan. Human Resources would be offering information sessions for employees about the health insurance changes.

- CEOD – Sue Ellen Crocker
  A roundtable discussion will be coordinated by CEOD on March 28 to address the Principles of Community and several supporting policies, including Campus and Workplace Violence Prevention, Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Prevention, and Accommodation of Employees with Disabilities. The purpose is to identify
concerns and suggest strategies to enhance the understanding and use of the Principles of Community and these related policies and programs. A one-year celebration is being planned for the “Principles of Community.”

- Staff Senate – Judy Alford
  
  President Steger met with the Staff Senate in February, and discussed such topics as the university’s plans for buildings and renovations, budgets, Higher Education Restructuring, and the branding project, “Invent the Future.”

3. **Nomination of Members to Fill Expired Seats (1 year terms)**

- Employee Benefits Committee – Wyatt Sasser volunteered to serve again.

- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity – Sue Ellen Crocker will serve, assuming she is elected to Staff Senate for the coming year.

  It was moved and seconded that both appointments be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Wyatt Sasser was requested by his staff association, SAFE, to ask whether free computer access to the Virginia Tech modem pool could be given for employees with 30 years of service, just as is free parking. Judy Alford will contact Linda Woodard.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.