



END OF YEAR REPORT

JUNE 3-4, 2018

BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING

SEYI OLUSINA

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE BOARD OF VISITORS**

REPORT OVERVIEW

- ❖ **2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPROVEMENTS**
- ❖ **FUTURE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS AND THINGS TO LOOK INTO**
- ❖ **DISCUSSION WITH, AND SURVEY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN FIVE COLLEGES**
- ❖ **WHAT'S NEXT?**

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ THE UNDERGRADUATE BOV REP POSITION
- ❖ OVER-ENROLLMENT OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FOR THE 2017-2018 YEAR
- ❖ GIVING AT VIRGINIA TECH
- ❖ DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS
- ❖ ATHLETICS

FUTURE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS AND THINGS TO LOOK INTO

❖ NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ DIVERSITY**

- ❖ COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS**

❖ THINGS TO LOOK INTO

- ❖ INTERNAL INTEGRITY**

SURVEY AND DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

❖ WHO: STUDENTS IN FIVE COLLEGES

- ❖ COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**
- ❖ PAMPLIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
- ❖ COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES**
- ❖ COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**
- ❖ COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

❖ WHEN: THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018

❖ HOW: GROUP MEETINGS WITH STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN EACH COLLEGE, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 15 STUDENTS IN EACH GROUP

- ❖ COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN STUDIES AND COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCE WERE NOT A PART OF THE SURVEYS**

SURVEY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN COLLEGES (CONT.)

PAMPLIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (DEAN'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL)

❖ HOW THEY HAVE IMPROVED

- ❖ ADVISING HAS IMPROVED**
- ❖ THE DEAN IS NOW MORE VISIBLE TO STUDENTS**

❖ NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ CLASSES SHOULD BE MORE CAREER FOCUSED AND APPLIED**
- ❖ ENCOURAGEMENT OF STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES**
- ❖ MORE UTILIZATION OF UNIVERSITY CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CENTER**

❖ POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ UNIVERSITY CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CENTER HELPS ALMOST ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE LOOKING, GET JOBS**

❖ NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ THERE IS NOT MUCH ROOM TO STUDY SOMETHING ELSE OUTSIDE OF THE COLLEGE**
- ❖ THERE ARE NOT FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE CLASSES IN EVERY DEPARTMENT**

SURVEY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC COLLEGES (CONT.)

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT (CNRE STUDENT COUNCIL)

❖ NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ BETTER WAY TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO CLASSES AT THE CRC**
- ❖ GROW THE METEOROLOGY DEPARTMENT**

❖ NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ THERE ISN'T REALLY ANY OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ABROAD FOR A SEMESTER AND COST OF THE FEW TRIPS OFFERED IS VERY HIGH**

❖ POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ SMALL CLASS SIZES**
- ❖ CLASSES ARE VERY HANDS-ON AND CAREER APPLICABLE**
- ❖ INCOMING STUDENTS HAVE ORIENTATION WITH THE DEANS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**
- ❖ CAREER FAIR FOR JUST THE COLLEGE HELPS STUDENTS GET JOBS**

SURVEY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC COLLEGES (CONT.)

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES (CLAHS AMBASSADORS)

❖ NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ BETTER ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION OF THE COLLEGE FOR ALL THEY DO AND ACCOMPLISH**
- ❖ MORE STUDY ABROAD FUNDING BECAUSE IT WAS JUST CUT**
- ❖ MORE DIVERSE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT THE COLLEGE JOB FAIR**
- ❖ RECRUIT STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL TO SOME OF THE SMALLER DEPARTMENTS**
- ❖ BRING BACK CONCENTRATION IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

❖ POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ CLASS SIZES TEND TO BE SMALLER**
- ❖ THERE IS GOOD MIX OF GENERAL ADVISORS AND FACULTY ADVISORS**

❖ NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ CLASSES ARE CUT BECAUSE NOT ENOUGH STUDENTS SIGN UP FOR CLASSES**

SURVEY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC COLLEGES (CONT.)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (STUDENT ENGINEERS' COUNCIL)

❖ HOW THEY HAVE IMPROVED

- ❖ CENTER FOR ENHANCEMENT OF ENGINEERING DIVERSITY (CEED) SUPPORTS MINORITY STUDENTS**

❖ NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ A BIGGER SPACE IS NEEDED TO HOLD THE EXPO**
- ❖ BETTER CLASS SIZES AND MULTIPLE SECTIONS OF CLASSES**
- ❖ THE CURRICULUM NEEDS TO BE COLLABORATIVE WITHIN THE COLLEGE AND OUTSIDE**
- ❖ THE EXECUTION OF EARLY ENGINEER CLASSES IS NOT UP TO PAR**

❖ POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ CAREER SERVICES HELPS ALMOST ALL STUDENTS, WHO ARE LOOKING, GET JOBS**

❖ NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ THERE IS NOT MUCH ROOM TO STUDY SOMETHING ELSE OUTSIDE OF THE COLLEGE**
- ❖ THERE ARE NOT FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE CLASSES IN EVERY DEPARTMENT**

SURVEY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC COLLEGES (CONT.)

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE (DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL)

❖ NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ IMPROVE TEACHING IN SELECTED DEPARTMENTS**
- ❖ MORE CONSISTENT ADVISING AND MORE ADVISORS**
- ❖ CAREER FAIR FOR THE COLLEGE**
- ❖ A CENTRAL STUDENT SPACE FOR THE COLLEGE**
- ❖ ADVISORS WHO CAN HELP WITH DECISIONS OUTSIDE OF JUST THAT DEPARTMENT**

❖ POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ BIOCHEMISTRY ADVISING IS VERY BENEFICIAL**

❖ NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES

- ❖ CO-TEACHING DOES NOT WORK WELL FOR STUDENTS**
- ❖ NOT VERY DIVERSE IN ANY DEPARTMENT EXCEPT FOR ECONOMICS**
- ❖ PHYSICS DEPARTMENT IS UNDERFUNDED.**

WHAT IS NEXT?

FOR ME



- ❖ This summer I have an internship as a Health Information Technology Intern in San Antonio, Texas. I will then be attending UNC Chapel Hill, in fall, to pursue my Masters in Health Care Administration.

FOR THE POSITION

- ❖ **RACHEL IWICKI WILL BE THE NEXT BOV REP**
- ❖ **THE SURVEYS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WILL BE DONE AT LEAST ONCE AN ACADEMIC YEAR AND REPORTED BACK**

QUESTIONS?

Constituency Report
Brett R. Netto
Graduate Student Representative to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
June 3, 2018

Good afternoon Rector Treacy, President Sands, distinguished members of the Board of Visitors, administrators, and guests. I have decided not to make this a typical end-of-the-year report focusing on what we have accomplished and what we have not accomplished. Virginia Tech has made progress in multiple areas this past academic year but we know there is always room to continuously improve and to take on new initiatives.

Our prestigious university has sent forth a new group of alumni into the world. At the Graduate School commencement in May, approximately 150 PhDs were hooded and 620 Masters degrees were awarded. This is the largest number of graduate students that have participated in the graduate commencement. Some of the graduate students from Northern Virginia travelled to Blacksburg to participate in the festivities.

Obviously, graduate students will continue to be concerned about the usual perennial issues like parking, stipends, insurance, and their voice within shared governance at Virginia Tech. The Graduate Student Assembly has elected their new officers for AY 2018-2019, who will remain vigilant in recognizing the needs of graduate students. At this time, they have not set any agenda for what they want to accomplish next year as they wish to remain flexible because they know that the life of graduate students changes daily.

Due to the length of time in which I hold this position, this is my last meeting with all of you. While my time has been brief, I have learned so much from each of you that I will take forward and implement into my life. My time here at Virginia Tech has allowed me to wear different hats, but I have definitely learned to wear the hat of the student through this position.

Being the graduate student representative has been an honor and I want to thank all of the Board and the university administration for allowing me to work alongside you in the spirit of Ut Prosim. I hope that I have lived up to your expectations and appropriately represented graduate students to you in this position. Again, thank you for the opportunity.

You are in good hands with my successor, Zo Amani. I am eager to see the exciting things he will do during his year in the position. When you first meet Zo, you immediately see his passion for Virginia Tech and the graduate students that he represents. His charisma is infectious and his smile is welcoming. The Board has made an excellent choice for next year's graduate student representative.

Even though I am leaving the Blacksburg area, the past four years have shown me why Virginia Tech students and alumni consistently say "This is Home." I will remain involved with Virginia Tech as I will still be enrolled as a student writing my dissertation from afar. My wife, Libbie, and I are moving back to

New Orleans, our familial home. She will be the CEO of the non-profit she worked for prior to our arrival at Virginia Tech. My main concern will be my dissertation but I will also be an adjunct instructor at my undergraduate alma mater, the University of New Orleans, with an eventual tenure track position at the university once I finish my PhD. The University of New Orleans is a majority minority institution and my hope is to have the Privateers with whom I interact will become future Hokies as graduate students. For the Board and the administrators I have worked with, thank you again for the relationships we have forged during my time at Virginia Tech and in this position. If you ever find yourselves in New Orleans or have the desire to visit the wonderful city I call home, please reach out to me. There will always be room at our inn. Thank you again.

Staff Senate Constituency Report
Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
June 3, 2018
Presented by Robert Sebek, Staff Senate President

Good afternoon Rector Treacy, members of the Board of Visitors, President Sands, administrators and distinguished guests. It is an honor to present to you updates from staff at Virginia Tech.

Staff Senate held its annual James McComas Leadership Seminar where 200 staff members from across the university spent the day at The Inn hearing about the benefits of mentoring, both as a mentee and serving as a mentor. This program honors former President McComas's support of staff throughout his tenure. Several speakers discussed how to improve the whole person through a relationship with a mentor. We greatly appreciate the financial support of the Division of Human Resources and the President's Office to enable us to put on this program.

The Senate has been gathering feedback on the proposed mission, vision, and core values that will guide the university's new strategic plan. We have enlisted the aid of staff associations representing many areas of the university to channel comments to our representative on the strategic plan committee.

We continue to investigate improving access to affordable child care, hearing from several stakeholders in a presentation to the Senate, researching programs and benefits at other universities and corporations, and listening to the needs of parents at the university.

Finally, over a thousand staff members participated in this year's Staff Appreciation Day in Owens Dining Hall, eating lunch, enjoying tours around campus, and participating in bingo and Family Feud games. We're thankful for the administrators and faculty who served meals and hosted games during the afternoon. I've heard a lot of positive responses about the food and activities and would like to thank the President's Office and Human Resources again for their backing.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sebek
President, Staff Senate

Faculty Constituent Report
Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
June 3, 2018

Hans Robinson, President—VT Faculty Senate

Good afternoon Rector Treacy, President Sands, members of the Board, Provost Clarke, and all others gathered here today.

Thinking back to the many discussions I've been party to in and out of the Faculty Senate in recent years, the one recurring topic that sticks out is the proliferation of demands on faculty time that have no direct bearing on our work as scholars and teachers. It seems that every year, the list of obligation is lengthened by another training we must attend, another assessment we have to perform, another form we need to fill out, another report are obliged to prepare for the latest university-wide initiative. The recent introduction of EFARS is only the most significant recent example of a novel drain on faculty time, but there are many others, each I'm sure laudable in isolation, but taken together amounting to an increasingly large bite out of the typical Virginia Tech faculty member's workweek.

Faculty time is arguably the most valuable resource the university has, since it is required for all the core activities of the university. Without faculty spending the time, no courses are taught, no research is performed, and no papers or books are written. It's also a fully subscribed resource. Contrary to what many outside of academia may believe, university faculty work hard—nearly 60 hours a week on average, year round, although most of us only get paid for nine months of work. With this in mind, it is worth noting that research into human productivity shows that increasing work hours beyond about 55 or 60 per week actually leads to a decrease in productivity over the long haul. In other words, for every additional task that you assign faculty, there is something else that will be done less well, or not at all.

The opportunity cost of all the administrative demands on faculty is in other words large, and made even larger by to the way in which faculty work. If you do administrative or managerial work, you can readily divide your day into half-hour chunks, assign each to a different task or meeting, and be successful at what you do. Creative work, on the other hand, requires long stretches of uninterrupted time—I my I believe not atypical case four hours at least—to be effective. In other words, you can schedule a half-hour meeting with me at 10 in the morning, and another at 2:30 in the afternoon, and while you have directly taken up only an hour of my time, as far as creative work is concerned, the entire day is gone.

Now, it is true that tedious chores that don't make use of your full talents are an inescapable part of life. For instance, I suspect that if I were to argue that I shouldn't do the laundry or the dishes because that is a waste of my Ph.D.-level talents, it would not go over too well with my wife. However, while we cannot completely avoid laundry duty, the value and scarcity of faculty time would seem to dictate that a concerted effort should be made to at least minimize our time with the dirty-clothes hamper.

But this doesn't appear to be happening. On the contrary, as a faculty member you sometimes get the impression that others think of your time as an all but unlimited resource that can be assigned to sundry tasks as needed, free of charge. I can understand why this attitude exists. There is simply no mechanism for measuring the true cost of assigning additional work to faculty, or for assessing how much time we actually spend on secondary tasks. But perhaps the time has come to compile a measure of this. As I discussed at the last board meeting, faculty is the subject of a rapidly growing number of metrics that aim to measure various aspects of what we do, including some things that are objectively extremely tricky to measure, such as the overall impact of the university's scholarship, or the quality and value of the instruction that we offer our students.

If the administration thinks that strengthening Virginia Tech requires us to try to perform such challenging measurements, each of which incidentally requires a significant investment of faculty time to realize, I submit that we should also go after some of the more low-hanging fruit. Such as identifying what can be done to increase the amount of time that faculty is able to spend on teaching and scholarship, i.e. on the things we do best, on the things we were hired to do.

The Faculty Senate is ready to do our part in this effort. We are about to launch the Faculty SoundBoard, a permanent survey open to Virginia Tech faculty, where they can anonymously discuss issues they would like to see addressed and make suggestions for improvements in policies and procedures at the university. This could be one tool for identifying inefficiencies and poor use of faculty time. In addition, John Ferris, the incoming Faculty Senate president, will make this topic a priority for the upcoming year. I hope that the Administration will be able to partner with us in this effort. If you do, I can promise you that not only will we be able to deploy the faculty's time more effectively, it will send the message that the university values and respects its faculty, and the resulting improvement in morale will pay dividends well beyond any direct gains in faculty effort spent on instruction and on scholarship.

Thank you.