

Arkansas State University

Staff Senate Meeting

April 15, 2015

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met on Wednesday April 15, 2015, in the library Boardroom (8<sup>th</sup> floor) on the ASU – Jonesboro campus, staff senate president, Angela Daniels called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

In attendance: Talvickeo Banks, Paula Broadway, Lisa Kihlstaduis proxy for Jon Carvell, Robert Coggins, Ellena Cox, Sheryl Puckett proxy for Tonya Crittenden, Angela Daniels, Debbie Davis, Rodney Joe Davis, Vera Forrest, Loretta Fulton, Dee Warren proxy for Brandy Hampton, Terry Locke, Amber Shipman proxy for Carla McCain, Jennifer Novalick, Maria Barner proxy for Hope Phillips, Carolyn Ann Ponce, Amy Privett, Connie Scott, Randall Tate, Whitney Lumpkin proxy for Nikki Turner, Elizabeth Wakefield, Mia Taylor proxy for Debra Wright.

**March Minutes:**

Minutes were approved.

**March Treasury:**

Treasury Report presented by Talvickeo Banks.

**New Business:**

- a. Welcome visiting new senators/Election results – Over 266 people voted in the Staff Senate elections on over 30 candidates. There will now be back-up senators if a senator should choose to step down. Shane Copeland, Randy Martin, Elaine Pointer, Scott Wheat, Jerrod Long, Natalie Turney, Adrian Everett, Patricia Sheerer, Kiffany Banks, Timothy Cureton, and Deanna Harris were all named new senators. Angela Daniels welcomed the new senators who will be assuming their new offices in the May meeting. There will be a committee sheet passed around in the May meeting as well. All the senators that are rolling off stood for an applause.
- b. Chief Diversity officer had to cancel due to time restraints. This is to be reschedule for the May meeting.
- c. Shared Governance Proposal for Academic Restructuring: This proposal is on an expedited time line. Angela Daniels stated that more information on the restructuring will be gathered via a survey on survey monkey. She also stated that Dr. Cooksey will be available to submit questions from individuals or as a group. Talvickeo Banks added in that this is not a handbook issue. Loretta Fulton asked what exactly we are voting on. Angela answered by saying the vote is to accept the shell as it is. Jennifer Novalick asked why changes to the current structure were necessary. Angela answered the provided by Dr. Cooksey on restructuring is she was faced with the task of combining the colleges. Jennifer asked if voting against the proposal would matter as it seems it is a done deal. Randall Tate answered in saying as a representatives of your constituency, you should vote as your constituent would. A proxy spoke up to explain that this was to make the Colleges stronger. Elizabeth Wakefield said this is a starting point in which College names will merge in order to make fewer colleges. Carolyn agreed. Angela said the senate could call a special meeting in order to talk to Dr. Cooksey. Robert Coggins asked if departments would be lost. Angela Daniels answered in

saying that at this point there is no other information. Jennifer asked if the vote was to move all the colleges are together. Jennifer Novalick would like to have more information about the renaming of colleges. Robert Coggins would like to know how this will benefit the students and gave an example of a students who had been three years into a program that suddenly went away. Carolyn Ponce said that students won't really see any big difference to the students. Unfortunately there is not a lot of additional information at this time. No details have been decided. Robert Coggins moved to accept the six names and move forward. Amy Privett seconded. Fourteen senators voted to accept the proposal by a show of hands. Two senators voted to oppose the proposal and 3 senators abstained.

#### **Old Business:**

- a. **Benefits and Healthcare Update:** Angela Daniels began by stating that questions have been submitted to our systems benefit concerning how we can improve the transparency of our benefits process? She stated that a lot of campus doesn't feel as if their voices are heard. One of the questions is when does the employees portion outweigh the cost on cutting corners on benefits? How can we have a bigger voice in benefits? If you look at the new card the suitcase went away and now you cannot go to anyone outside of the network. As a system we have now brought in the campus in West Memphis, AR. They would have to go to Little Rock, AR because Memphis is out of our network. It has also been questioned if the new benefits person understands the process of shared governance. There is a request for qualifications that will roll over into and RFP that asked for a consultant to come in. We will ask if we should come out of grandfather status or not. The new system benefits person will be at an open meeting for the Faculty Senate on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 2:00 pm in the Delta Center conference room. Angela Daniels asked if you could attend please do so.
- b. **Distinguished Performance Awards:** The candidates and winners have been selected and chosen. Hope Phillips was not here to give an update. Angela read that selections have been made but not given to the public because the awardees have not been notified yet. The Distinguished Staff Service Awards Ceremony is May the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the auditorium in the Student Union at 1:30 pm. Angela Daniels ask the Senate to please attend.
- c. **Picnic Update:** The picnic will be May the 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Sign-up sheets are available for volunteer work. Please sign up if you haven't. The top five valued items will be online auctions that will last for a week. If you have a business that would like to donate please let the committee know.

#### **Report from the President and Open Discussion:**

- a. Staff Senate president from Henderson emailed Angela Daniels to ask about our distinguished performance awards. They were excited to model some of their things after ours. She was like to invite them to either the picnic or awards ceremony for networking.
- b. Executive council meeting is this afternoon and UPC meeting is on May the 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first meeting for next year's budget. UPC is the University Planning Committee.
- c. For new senators, in the next meeting Staff Senate will elect new officers. Please be ready..
- d. Angela Daniels ask that the senate look at buying staff senate shirts to give away that have staff senate on the back to let people know that we are here and get other people involved.

- e. Lori is reviewing our constitution and by-laws to make sure all of our changes are in order. It should go to the board on the next meeting.
- f. Staff senators who are retiring can keep their name plaque.
- g. Loretta asked if Dr. Cooksey will come to address the staff senate later on for restructuring. Angela Daniels answered that she was sure that would happen.
- h. May meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 2:00 pm.
- i. Carolyn Pounce motioned to adjourn at 2:32 pm.