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Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

Staff Senate

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Minutes Staff Senate Meeting, March 11, 2004

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**Minutes
Staff Senate Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2004
OLD MAIN 523**

1. The Staff Senate Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair, Kenley Haley. Kenley announced that Bonnie Powell, Kelly Anglen, and Robin Moore had resigned from the Staff Senate. Replacements for these members are Mary Beth Lohr, Tammie Edrington, and Gerald Golden.

Members Present: Janet Bowlin, Renee Clay, Tammie Edrington, Candy Erbe, Tommi Featherston, Gerald Golden, Kenley Haley, Rodney Hughes, Susan Huskey, Carrie Jackson, Nima Khamooshi, Jewel Lindsey, Mary Beth Lohr, Bruce McNully, Susan Rausch, Bonnie Swayze, Barbara Taylor, Joe Terry, Eric Vaught, Shelly Wilmoth, Susan Yell and Barbara Yule.

Members Absent: Carla Coker, Patricia Edwards, Vicky Hartwell, Lioneld Jordan and Heather Sprandel.

- II. A motion was presented, seconded, and approved to adopt the agenda as written.

- III. The minutes from February 12, 2004 were reviewed. There was a motion presented and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

IV. Graduate Recognition:

Candy Erbe presented the list of recent graduates (August – December 2003) and acknowledged those who were present with certificates.

Jewel Lindsey took pictures of the recipients and their supervisors and co-workers who were present.

- V. **Guest Speaker: Dr. Don Pederson** provided a detailed report on the financial situation facing the funding of higher education in Arkansas specifically those for the University of Arkansas. His report included handouts detailing the Arkansas legislature's information concerning funding priorities and forecasts for state funding. Act 108 (funding for education) was discussed, as well as possible salary increases, tuition increases, and higher costs for parking permits and health insurance coverage.

VI. Committee Reports

A. **Standing Committees**

1. **Communications – Susan Huskey**, the Newsletter was discussed; may use alternative means for information such as Daily Headlines. Suggestion was made that departmental communication may be an option or that flyers might be more effective.

2. **Elections – Jewel Lindsey**, the nomination ballots for Staff Senate are ready and a meeting on April 15th in ARKU 301 is scheduled to label and mail the ballots. The nominating process was discussed.
3. **Scholarships and Awards – Candy Erby**, no applications for the community service awards, the deadline is March 31. The applications can be accessed via the Website.
4. **Finance – Vicky Hartwell**, was not present.
5. **Parking and Transit – Barbara Yule**, has accepted the responsibility for this committee.
6. **Safety – Joe Terry**, no meeting.
7. **Employee of the Quarter – Susan Yell**, the deadline for nominations is April 15, 2004.
8. **Legislative – Bonnie Swayze**, committee did not meet. Bonnie mentioned that due to term limits 35 vacancies will occur in the Arkansas Legislature this year, several in Northwest Arkansas. Her concern is that the new members will be unaware of how State employees are affected by funding issues. A Legislative Council meeting is scheduled at the Alumni Center on April 16th.
9. **Internal Affairs – Lioneld Jordan**, was not present due to illness. Bruce McNully reported that items discussed in the meeting were sick leave buyouts and cost of living raises.

B. Ad Hoc Committees

1. **Fringe Benefits – Bonnie Swayze**, deferred to Janet Bowlin who shared that a QualChoice satisfaction survey of questions concerning fringe benefits was to be created and paid for by the Systems Office.
2. **By-Laws – Candy Erbe**, revision to be looked at and will report next month.
3. **Picnic -** the picnic is planned for May 28th or 29th. Kelly Anglen was the chair person, the Executive Committee met and will search for a replacement. Joe Terry, Bruce McNully and Eric Vaught offered to help.

VII. New Business

- A. **EDoc concerns – Dr. Barbara Taylor**, stated that the University pays For EDoc.com and addressed questions concerning the cost effectiveness to the University and employees. A program analysis will be done in the future to determine if the program is profitable/beneficial after the program has been in effect for a bit longer.

VIII. Other Business

- A. **Announcements – Dr. Barbara Taylor**
- Systems Benefit Committee met with vendors and discussed issues about benefits.
 - Section 125, Cafeteria Plan – changes made to get quicker turn around for actions.
 - QualChoice – issues are being addressed; premium increase data has been provided to Dr. Pederson.
 - Changes in Employment and Training Development – Debbie McLoud is now responsible for the upcoming Supervisor Development Program (SDP) beginning March 23rd. Jim Wells is now the Staff Development Specialist II and will be working closely with Debbie to develop and implement the training programs at the University.
- B. **Gary Smith – Parking & Transit**, general parking issues were discussed. The construction on the south parking deck continues. Projection is that 500 spaces will be opened in December with 1,600 added in April. Bus schedules and routes were also mentioned with a new stop at Fine Arts.

- IX. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Wells