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Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

Staff Senate

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Minutes Staff Senate Meeting, July 10, 2014

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Staff Senate

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Staff Senate Annual Retreat

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2014

Members Present: Barbara Abercrombie, Brittany Acuff, Denise Bignar, Stephanie Bukoski-Smith, Donna Carter, Blake Chapman, Stacey Clay, Laura Cochran, J'onnelle Colbert-Diaz, Lonnie Deavens, Cosmo Denger, Shannon Dere, Stephanie Freedle, Lisa Frye, Nicole Green, Marweta Haegle, Derrick Hartberger, Jeremy McAtee, Ryan Miller, Cindy Morley, Eva Owens, Autumn Parker, Henry Rowe, Mary Skinner, Eric Specking, Elon Turner, Lisa Turner, Teresa Waddell, Trish Watkins

Members Absent: Stephanie Adams, Roy Hatcher

Guests Present: Dr. Sharon Gaber, Dr. Don Pederson, Richard Hudson

- I. The meeting was called order by chair, Trish Watkins at 8:45am.
- II. A motion was made, seconded, and approve to adopt the agenda as presented.
- III. Roll Call – Eva Owens
- IV. A motion was made, seconded, and approve to accept the meeting minutes with corrections.
- V. Ice Breaker/Introductions
- VI. Elections & Nominations
 - a. Finance Committee Elections
Currently the Committee consists of Eric Specking as Chair and Lonnie Deavens. Trish opened nominations for two Senators to be on the Committee. Donna Carter and Stephanie Bukoski-Smith both nominated themselves to be on the Committee. A motion was made, seconded, and approve to close nominations. There was one abstain from this vote. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to have Donna Carter and Stephanie Bukoski-Smith on the Finance Committee.
 - b. Campus Council
 - o Nominations and Affirmation of Campus Council Members; Campus Council is a group that brings all of the governing bodies on campus together. The governing bodies are Staff Senate, Faculty Senate and ASG. If there is a policy or resolution that affects more than two bodies then it goes to Campus Council for approval. Campus Council requires sixteen members from each governing bodies, excluding Chair and Vice Chair, to be on the Council. During discussion Trish Watkins asked for 16 volunteers to be on the Council. The sixteen Senators who volunteered are Laura Cochran, Elon Turner, Eric Specking, Ryan Miller, Blake Chapman, Stephanie Bukoski-Smith, Lisa Frye, Hershaf Hartford, Brittany Acuff, Shannon Dere, Cindy Morley, Nicole Green, Stacey Clay Marweta Haegele, Mary Skinner, and Roy Hatcher.
 - o Members of the Campus Council Executive Committee; A motion was made, seconded, and approved to nominate the Chair and Vice-Chair of Staff Senate to

the Campus Council Executive Committee. The voting went as follow: yes – Majority, Abstain: 2, No: 0

- VII. Takama Statton- Brooks – Move-in; Not present. Trish asked if anyone is interested in volunteering to help out during Move-in Day to please send her an email.
- VIII. Updates from Dr. Sharon Gaber, Provost – Dr. Sharon Gaber;
 - a. The University is currently second to last place in Graduation rates in the United States. Currently the graduation rate is 60% but it should be 67%. The University is working on getting the numbers up but if any Senator has suggestions, please email Dr. Gaber. The University will have an Associate Vice Provost for Graduation and Retention to help with this issue in the Fall 2014.
 - b. The candidates for the Honors College Dean will come in the fall to give their presentations.
 - c. Dr. Gaber will chair the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration position.
- IX. Presentations to Don Pederson and Richard Hudson; Trish Watkins presented a resolution to Don Pederson and Richard Hudson to recognize the hard work they have done for Staff Senate and to congratulate them on their retirement.
- X. Committee Introductions; Each committee chair gave a summary on the committees they chair and to solicit volunteers.
 - Awards – Mary Skinner
 - Communication - Roy Hatcher; Not present
 - Elections – Stephanie Freedle
 - Employee of the Quarter/Year – Denise Bignar
 - Finance – Eric Specking
 - Internal Affairs – J'onnelle Colbert-Diaz
 - Legislative – Eve Owens/Trish Watkins
 - Transit, Parking & Safety – Jeremy McAtee
 - Scholarship – Elon Turner
 - Special Events – Brittany Acuff
- XI. Goal Setting – Trish Watkins;
 - Finance Committee – Looking at current process and updating them to be more efficient.
 - Internal Affairs – Have guest speakers to attend the Staff Senate meetings to give Staff Senate information on resources that are available.
 - Communication – Have better communication with campus. The Staff Senate website needs to be updated monthly and having newsletters sent out to campus more often.
 - Staff Senate needs to be more charitable by helping the Full Circle Pantry either with volunteering or collecting items for the pantry.
- XII. Team Building Exercise
- XIII. Around the Senate

- a. Ryan Miller – Town and Gown Committee Meeting; The Town & Gown Committee works on University and City relations is meeting to make recommendations to the City Council on the Maple Street renovations. This involves issues including on-street parking, cross walks, turn lanes, and traffic directions for streets running into or away from Maple Street. Staff members can express their concerns to the University representatives on the Committee which includes: Danny Pugh, Melissa Harwood-Rom, Gary Smith, Matt Trantham, and Mike Johnson. Ryan Miller is also on the Committee as a representative of Ward 4. The meetings are open to the public. The Committee will meet on July 21, 2014 at 3pm in the Arkansas Research and Technology Park in the AT&T Conference Room at the Genesis Technology Incubator located at 700 Research Center Boulevard.
- b. Barbara Abercrombie - Human Resources
 - Wellness Taskforce – The taskforce is looking at ways to encourage wellness on campus. There will be a kick-off event in October called “Walking out the path to wellness”. Looking for support from Staff Senate.
 - Incentive pay for degree policy will be available soon. Those completing a degree program will receive an incentive pay. For classified employees it will be part of the base pay and for non-classified there will be lump sum.
- c. Eva Owens
 - Faculty/Staff can come to the Technology Lab and check out equipment in the Union. The Technology Lab is open every day from 8:00am – 12midnight.
- d. Stephanie Bukoski-Smith
 - Garvin Woodland Gardens is having a special exhibit call “Mystic Creatures” in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Davis