

The University of Memphis
Staff Senate Minutes – Thursday, October 18, 2007
Panhellenic Building – 101
9:30 A.M.

Senators Present: Babb, Susan; Beasley, Sharon; Bell, Karen; Buchner, Melissa; Busby, Hugh; Cade, Paul, Colburn, Dorothy; Dillon, Chloristine; Fitzgerald, Peggy; George, Elise; Guffin, Sharon; Horton, Melvin; Hudson, James; Lockhart, Lavaire; McAfee, Kimberly; Merritt, Rebecca; Monatgue, James; Moses, Sheila; Murley, Heather; O’Bryan, Kathy; Scott, Belinda; Settles, Yulonda; Taylor-Strowder, Ora; Tignor, Jonathan; Turner, Debra; Wilson, Faye; Woemmel, Clay.

Senators Absent (excused): Bekis, Barbara; Brown, Annette; Cowles, Angelina; Dimond, Joellen; Duhart, Senese; Franklin, Dean; Johnson, Mary; Lee, Bernadette; McCoy, Becky; Muldrow, Vanessa; Newman, Karen; Sirignano, Eric; Walsh, Elaine; Wilson, Kimberly.

Senators Absent (unexcused): Brock, Ann; Cohn, Susan; Elliotte, William; Harbin, Bill; Harrison-Tyson, April; Hunt, Lenetha; Johnson, Jesse; Wilson, Deborah.

The October meeting of the Staff Senate was held in the Panhellenic Building with 27 senators present.

Announcements By President Fitzgerald

By virtue of the office, President Fitzgerald has been asked to be a part of the newly formed Faculty & Staff Safety Advisory. Two groups (Faculty-Staff/Students) will meet separately to discuss concerns and ideas for improving campus safety. The groups met as one last week with Police Services Director Bruce Harber to get an overview of committee responsibilities and future campus plans.

President Fitzgerald announced that since President Raines passed out University pins to all Staff Senators, and only one Senator indicated an interest in pursuing the issue of having a separate pin for the Staff Senate, the discussions related to new Staff Senate pins are closed.

A list of the expectations for Admin 153, the new Staff Senate office space, has been set to Ruthie Bassford, there has been no response from her yet.

President Fitzgerald asked to make certain everyone is aware of the opportunity to donate to the merit award established by Arts & Sciences in Gary Carman’s name.

Two new senators were recognized, Lavaire Lockhart representing Cluster L and Lenetha Hunt representing Cluster N. As Senator Hunt was not present, Senator Lockhart read the Staff Senator Pledge and was welcomed to the meeting.

Vice President’s Financial Report: Senator Woemmel reported that the budget has been submitted to TBR. The Executive Committee will present the budget to the Senate at the next meeting, or sent it via email before the meeting. An estimate at this point is as follows:

\$4300 in the Base Budget
\$2100 (Adjustment – either from Carryforward or Foundation monies)
\$6400 Total

Expenses this fiscal year in the amount of \$22.18 (name cards for Senators)

Ms. Jude Knight, ITD and Co-Chair for the TBR Employee Charitable Campaign was present to discuss the importance of, and opportunities for the campaign going on from October 15-November 15. Posters to inform and encourage everyone to give were passed out to be placed in offices and breakrooms.

Mr. Bruce Harber, Director of Police Services, discussed decisions and actions by the university during the recent tragedy of Taylor Bradford's death on campus. On the night of the shooting, there was no call received regarding a shooting or traffic accident. A UofM police officer came upon the car and treated it like a traffic accident until Mr. Bradford was removed from the car and the gunshot to his right side was observed. Dorms were closed to anyone who did not live there, not "locked" down; students who wanted to leave and go home were allowed to do so. Mr. Harber also explained that classes were cancelled out of respect to Mr. Bradford and also to limit the number of people around that could hinder the MPD investigation and possibly contaminate a crime scene. Since the suspects had left the scene and it was known to have been a targeted rather than random incident, offices remained open to assist students as needed. In the discussion following, we were reminded that our role as staff representatives includes finding out the facts of any event and relaying those facts to constituents to help contain the rumors that may start, and to support the decisions of those who are trained to handle incidents that occur on campus.

Due to the time spent with our guest speakers, other business and committee reports will be heard at the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Babb, Secretary
Staff Senate