

The University of Memphis
Staff Senate Minutes – Thursday, January 17, 2008
Panhellenic Building – Ballroom
9:30 A.M.

Senators Present: Babb, Susan; Beasley, Sharon; Bekis, Barbara; Brock, Ann; Busby, Hugh; Cade, Paul; Colburn, Dorothy; Cohn, Susan; Dimond, Joellen; Fitzgerald, Peggy; Guffin, Sharon; Harbin, Bill; Horton, Melvin; Lee, Bernadette; Montague, Jim; Murley, Heather; Scott, Belinda; Sirignano, Eric; Taylor-Strowder, Ora; Tignor, Jonathan; Turner, Debra; Walsh, Elaine; Wilson, Kimberly; Wilson, Deborah; Woemmel, Clay

Senators Absent (excused): Bell, Karen; Buchner, Melissa; Cowles, Angelina; Duhart, Senese; George, Elise; Johnson, Jesse; Johnson, Mary; McAfee, Kimberly; McCoy, Becky; Merritt, Rebecca; Moses, Shelia; Newman, Karen; Wilson, Faye

Senators Absent (unexcused): Dillon, Chloristine; Elliotte, Bill; Franklin, Dean; Harrison-Tyson, April; Hudson, James; Hunt, Lenetha; Lockhart, Lavaire; O'Bryan, Kathy; Schwartz, Sherri; Settles, Yulonda

The January meeting of the Staff Senate was held in the Panhellenic Building with 25 senators present.

The meeting was called to order by President Fitzgerald, and Senator Woemmel introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Rosie Phillips Bingham, Vice President for Student Affairs. The topic of Dr. Bingham's presentation was questions and concerns raised regarding the AraMark contract and their services. Clarification was given to the following questions:

Why do we have a dining contract – The State provides only 31% of the cost to run the university; tuition, fees, fund-raising, and contracts help to support the balance needed.

Why will Aramark not donate beverages – The beverage contract is with Pepsi.

Will Aramark prepare ethnic dishes – If Aramark says they cannot prepare a specific dish, an exception can be requested from Dr. Bingham's office to use another source.

Why can we not take leftovers home – This is a Health Department Regulation; no leftover food can be taken out.

Are we allowed to bring donuts on campus for meetings – No food from outside vendors is to be brought on campus. Aramark no longer has a contract with Krispy Kreme, Meta Laabs offered to look into other possibilities. Currently, Aramark will prepare pastries & muffins for meetings.

Is it alright to have Bake Sales on campus – It is okay if the items are home cooked, but will probably only be allowed once per semester.

Dr. Bingham's Office will consider requests for exceptions; however, we do have a contract with Aramark and must try to work within the boundaries of that contract.

Dr. Bingham encouraged anyone who has questions regarding Dining Services to contact her office.

President Fitzgerald announced that Bill Lansden in Athletics had requested 5-8 Staff Senate representatives take part in focus groups discussing the on-campus stadium. Senators Horton, Harbin and Busby volunteered. Constituents will also be contacted to see if anyone is interested in taking part in the meeting.

Committee Reports

The only committee update was from Senator Harbin, representing the **Space Policy Council**. Senator Harbin reported that discussion at the meeting included the railroad underpass, modifications to Central Avenue, the Hooks Institute, the Clinical Sciences Building on the Park Avenue Campus, Jones Hall & Browning Hall renovations.

Old Business

Senator Bekis reported that the Staff Senate Executive Committee has suggested we combine Staff Appreciation Day with Human Resources and their Staff Recognition Day; the date of the event will be May 15. Since there was not a quorum present, the motion to combine our event with Human Resources will be voted upon electronically. Senator Guffin asked that everyone work to contribute ideas for the event and help the Public Relations Committee as much as possible.

Senator Cade was asked to give a report on the Tennessee State Employees Association (TSEA). Background information is available for anyone interested after the meeting; membership dues are 13.95/month. Senator Cade encouraged everyone to join and “have a voice”.

Susan Babb, Secretary
Staff Senate