

STAFF SENATE MINUTES
May 8, 2008

Present: Sharon Beasley; Barbara Bekis; Ann Brock; Hugh Busby; Paul Cade; Dorothy Colburn; Susan Cohn; Chloristine Dillon; Peggy Fitzgerald; Elise George; Sharon Guffin; Bill Harbin; Melvin Horton; Mary Johnson; Becky McCoy; Heather Murley; Sherri Schwartz; Belinda Scott; Eric Sirignano; Deborah Wilson

Excused: Susan Babb; Melissa Buchner; Dean Franklin; Kimberly McAfee; James Montagure; Karen Newman; Kathy O'Bryan; Kimberly Wilson; Clay Woemmel; Faye Wilson

Unexcused: Karen Bell; Angelina Cowles; Joellen Dimond; Senese Duhart; Bill Elliotte; Jesse Johnson; Bernadette Lee; Lavaire Lockhart; Ora Taylor-Strowder; Jonathan Tignor; Debra Turner; Elaine Walsh

The meeting was called to order by President Fitzgerald with 20 senators present. A motion was made by Senator Horton to approve the March Minutes as submitted and seconded by Senator George.

Announcements

President Fitzgerald announced that Sarah Adair from the Office of Government Relations and Public Policy on campus had confirmed that she could find no regulations that would prohibit the Senate from extending an invitation to TN State Employee Association representatives to speak to the Senate. Senator Guffin, Chair of the Legislative Advisory Committee, said that a representative will be invited to come to a Staff Senate meeting next year.

President Fitzgerald said the Senate will elect new officers at the June meeting which will be the last meeting for this year.

The election process has not been revised via the bylaws. Senator Beasley will send out a list of returning senators through email. Senators will be asked to review the names and nominate a Senator for office. Senators are asked to check with the nominee before making the nomination. At the June meeting a list of accepted nominations will be presented. The floor will then be opened for nominating any new members to office. Any concerns can be emailed to Sharon Beasley.

Provost Faudree asked the Staff Senate to send a representative to a TBR module about dealing with disruptive students. Melissa Buchner, from the College of Arts and Sciences, was appointed.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Election Committee – Senator Beasley will be sending out announcements to vote for vacant senate seats.

Issues Committee – No Report

Legislative Committee – No Report

Bylaws Committee – Senator Johnson reported that the committee is still working on revising the bylaws. She mentioned that previous meeting minutes indicated a successful vote to change the Bylaws Committee from ad hoc status to a standing committee. The Bylaws will be updated to reflect this change.

University Wide Committees

Campus Safety/Security – No Report

Facilities/Services – Senator Harbin reported that the committee met and discussed construction and maintenance on campus. WKNO will build off campus, but they will be here for another two years. Money is needed for deferred maintenance. There is also an elevator issue in Browning and McCord. Robinson Hall will be renovated for academic/research space.

Campus Safety Advisory Group – No Report

Fee Refund/Appeals – Senator Horton reported two appeals were denied.

1st Year Experience – No report

Honorary Degree – No Report

Food Services – No Report

Public Records – No Report

Space Policy – Senator Harbin informed the Senate that the Hooks Institute will have space in the Administration Building. Park Avenue campus is being renovated to include space for Art and Education. Senator Harbin will email the senate a detailed description of the plans.

Sustainability – Senator Sirignano informed the Senate that student government approved the use of \$400,000 funds raised from student fees to use for Lead certification. Goals for the upcoming year include broader recycling programs on campus and building a culture of recycling.

Traffic – No Report

Policy Review – No Report

First Friday – Janet Mitchell reported that there will be no First Friday Forum's during the summer.

New Business

A request was made for a report on the University Center progress.

A request was made for a report regarding the reduction of state employees. Senator Guffin will speak to Sarah Adair regarding this matter.

President Fitzgerald reminded the Senate that we should share our discussions with our constituents.

Senator Harbin updated the Senate regarding Celebration of Staff Day (formerly known as Staff Appreciation Day). Tickets have gone out to U of M employees and each person will need a ticket to get food. If anyone did not receive a ticket they can contact Bill Harbin or get a ticket at the door. President Fitzgerald encouraged everyone to send a reminder to their constituents regarding Celebration of Staff Day. Senator Guffin will coordinate decorations for the event. There is a time conflict with Human Resources, which Senator Harbin will work to resolve.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Babb
Secretary, Staff Senate