

STAFF SENATE MINUTES
April 16, 2009

Present: Susan Babb; Karen Bell; Kimberly Blair; Ann Brock; Melissa Buchner; Hugh Busby; Paul Cade; Susan Cohn; William Elliotte; Brad Frewin; Sharon Guffin; Linda Hall; Bill Harbin; Melvin Horton; Lanetha Hunt; Virginia Huss; Jesse Johnson; Mary Johnson; Temeka Jones; Judith Knight; Kimberly McAfee; Becky McCoy; Karen Newman; Julia Rhodes; Belinda Scott; Sherri Stephens; Ora Taylor-Strowder; Kimberly Wilson; Deborah Wilson.

Excused: Sandy Barksdale; Senese Duhart; John Farrell; Peggy Fitzgerald; Kathryn O'Bryan; Sherri Schwartz; Debra Turner.

Unexcused: Jimmy Brigman; Ladonnal Curry; Carmen Davis; Chloristine Dillon; Dean Franklin; James Hudson; Heather Murley; Jonathan Tignor; Geraldine Young-Taylor.

Meeting was called to order by President Babb with 29 Senators present.

Senator Busby introduced Gail Williams, the Field Representative for the Tennessee State Employee Association (TSEA). She stated that the TSEA was established in 1974 to represent the interest and rights of the state employees and was celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

Senator Wilson asked if this was considered a professional organization that you could write off on your taxes.

Ms. Williams stated that no it wasn't and no you can't.

President Babb asked if there were any additions or corrections to the last minutes.

Senator Wilson stated that the name be changed to Kim Wilson in the presentation she did on the garden proposal.

Senator McAfee motioned and Senator Hunt seconded the approval of the March minutes.

Committee Reports

President Babb stated that we have \$4,735.28 in the Staff Senate treasury.

By-Laws: Senator Mary Johnson stated that the By-laws committee met twice. She stated that she would send a copy of the by-laws with the proposed changes with a request for responses and/or suggestions.

President Babb inquired about absences being addressed. She also stated that the Executive Council suggested asking Dr. Raines to do a letter stressing the importance of attending Staff Senate meetings.

Senator Cohn asked if they had thought about have one (1) hour training sessions for incoming Staff Senators?

President Babb stated that it had been talked about but they didn't get around to doing it.

Senator Knight asked if there is anything on the web page regarding new member orientation?

President Babb responded no.

Senator Mary Johnson asked if Senator's supervisors are going to be included so they will be willing to allow their employees to attend?

Senator Babb stated yes. It will be addressed in the President's letter.

Senator Wilson stated that on tomorrow, homemade treats would be available outside of the Tiger Den. She also stated that 2,000 cinder blocks have been donated along with fruit trees from vendors for the garden. The garden area will be called Oasis and located on the North side of Ball Hall. Volunteers are needed on May 1, 2009 to help with planting. Karyl Buddington is the chair of this project. A foundation account has been set up and is accepting donations. She stated that they are also asking fraternities and sororities to help in planting the beds. They are anticipating making this a year round program.

Senator Cohn asked what are the chances of you being able to speak to the community instead of the Staff Senate only?

Senator Wilson stated that Karyl Buddington would be speaking to the community.

Senator Knight asked if she had spoken with Telecommunications for the newsletter.

Senator Wilson replied that she had not. She also stated that vendors have donated herbs, fruit trees, and compost.

Senator Cohn stated that in 2001 there was a plea for people to help with the Rose Garden. She asked if they would be requesting help for the Rose Garden also?

Senator Wilson stated no.

President Babb asked Senator Harbin to give details on Staff Appreciation Day.

Senator Harbin stated that it would be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 in the Rose Theater. It would start between 11:30 and 11:45 and we are required to be cleaned up and be out by 2:00 p.m. It is on the President's calendar and the award ceremony will begin 30-45 minutes earlier than last year. He also stated that we might have to do without paid entertainment. We may be able to have a Karaoke type talent show.

President Babb stated that we have \$4,700.00 but would like to retain some to roll over for next year. The executive Council suggested spending \$3,000.00-\$3,500.00.

Senator Mary Johnson asked how much did we spend last year?

Senator Harbin stated that we spent \$5,016.00 and \$4,147.00 of that was spent on food.

Senator Cohn asked how much extra pizza did we end up with?

Senator Harbin responded we ended up with 30 pizzas. He also stated that drinks would be donated again.

Senator Horton asked if there were any drinks left from last year?

Senator Harbin stated a few.

Senator Mary Johnson reminded the Senate to not forget the certificates for Senators and the gavel for the President.

President Babb asked for a motion on \$3,000.00 or \$3,500.00 to be used for Staff Appreciation Day.

Senator Mary Johnson motioned that we spend \$3,000.00 and Senator Busby seconded.

Announcements

President Babb announced that Senator Harbin and Senator Busby were featured in the Update. Senator Fitzgerald asked that she announce the Thai Chi demo at McWherter Library on April 25, 2009 from 9:30am to 1:00pm. She also stated that Senator Turner and Senator Murley are working on the election process.

Senator Mary Johnson asked if annual leave could be used for Memorial Day and does someone have to be in the office and do offices have to be kept open?

President Babb stated that she didn't know but she would ask. She also stated that comments regarding the Memorial Day swap should be sent to President Raines or Dr. Faudree.

Senator Cohn announced that Janet Mitchell would be receiving the Allen J. Hammond award at the Faculty Convocation.

Senator Busby reminded everyone that if you are working with sensitive data you should be using encryption software such as the TRU Crypt.

Senator Rhodes and Senator Hall announced that Minority Affairs would be hosting the Multicultural Festival from 12pm to 2pm on Friday April 17, 2009.

President Babb announced that the Executive Council used the Faculty Senate office for their meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by President Babb.

Belinda E. Scott
Staff Senate Secretary