

**STAFF SENATE MEETING  
MAY 21, 2009**

**Present:** Susan Babb; Ann Brock; Melissa Buchner; Hugh Busby; Susan Cohn; Chloristine Dillon; John Farrell; Sharon Guffin; Bill Harbin; Melvin Horton; Virginia Huss; Mary Johnson; Temeka Jones; Becky McCoy; Karen Newman; Kathryn O'Bryan; Belinda Scott; Sherri Stephens; Kimberly Wilson.

**Excused:** Sandy Barksdale; Jimmy Brigman; Carmen Davis; William Elliotte; Dean Franklin; Brad Frewin; Peggy Fitzgerald; Linda Hall; James Hudson; Lanetha Hunt; Judith Knight; Heather Murley; Sherri Schwartz; Ora Taylor-Strowder; Debra Turner.

**Unexcused:** Karen Bell; Kimberly Blair; Paul Cade; Ladonnal Curry; Senese Duhart; Jesse Johnson; Kimberly McAfee; Julia Rhodes; Jonathan Tignor; Deborah Wilson; Geraldine Young-Taylor.

Meeting was called to order by President Babb with 19 Senators present.

President Babb asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April minutes. Senator Guffin motioned and Senator Horton seconded the approval of the April minutes.

President Babb introduced Karyl Buddington to speak to us about the garden that has been planted in the field behind the Elma Neal Roane Fieldhouse.

Ms. Buddington stated that the size of the garden has grown from its original plan as a pilot plot. She invited everyone to come and see what has been planted in the garden. She stated that the Staff Senate has a plot in the garden that will have vegetables, herb flowers, peanuts, popcorn, and a variety of tomatoes and cucumbers. She asked that we contact Kim Wilson to get the location of other gardens on campus that were converted from their existing flower gardens.

Senator Wilson stated that a long L shape plot had been made for the Staff Senate.

President Babb stated that she will send an email requesting volunteers from the Staff Senate to work in the Staff Senate garden plot on Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

### **Committee Reports**

President Babb stated that our pizza bill for the Staff Appreciation Day was \$2,495.00

### **Dining Services**

Senator Brock stated that Aramark got the bid for a 10-year contract with the University. She also stated that there will be mandatory meal plans of \$300 per semester for freshmen and sophomore students. These meal plan cards will be good at any dining facility and vending machine on campus.

## **Safety & Security**

Senator Cohn stated that Shelby Slater spoke about how the Crisis Management Program has evolved on campus. Senator Cohn suggested that the Staff Senate have him back early next year to follow up. She stated that person on person crime was way down but property crime is up. She also stated that Dr. Capooth spoke on the H1N1 virus and that there are videos on the University of Memphis home page on this subject also. She also stated that the university is going to apply for TDOT money to make the railroad crossing accessible to handicapped students.

Senator Harbin stated that they will try to put a sidewalk on either side of the track.

Senator Cohn stated that at present the only flat crossing is at the Campus School.

President Babb stated that Senator Murley and Senator Turner are working on the on-line ballot for the 34 seats to be filled.

President Babb opened the floor for senator Mary Johnson to present and speak about the By-laws revisions.

Senator Johnson stated that changes were made for clarification. Absences are one of the major things addressed. Hopefully new Senators will look at their obligation.

President Babb stated the it needs to be impressed upon the new Senators the importance of their attendance.

Senator Johnson stated that Senator Murley sent an email stating that the election was a three (3) step process (1) asking people to opt out (2) nominations (3) voting. She would like to take out the opt out step. She also discussed the possibility of new officers. At present the Secretary is also the Historian. She proposes separating and creating a Parliamentarian and President Elect. This would give them a chance to transition into their position three (3) months before the new Senate comes in.

Senator Horton suggested that whoever runs the Staff Senate web site can also be historian.

President Babb stated that that sounds good and so did Senator Mary Johnson. President Babb also stated that hopefully we'll be able to vote on the By-laws in June. She asked if the new Senators can be included in this voting?

Senator Huss replied that yes they could after they are voted in.

Senator Harbin stated that the expenses so far were \$3,795.00 on Staff appreciation Day. He had also heard good and bad feedback.

Senator Wilson stated that the employees from her area enjoyed it.

Senator Harbin stated that Human Resources has decided to keep it separate next year.

Senator Mary Johnson asked if there is a list of door prize winners.

Senator Harbin stated yes, and he has it. He will send out an email to winners to pick up their prize. If they haven't by the next meeting he will give them away at that time.

President Babb asked if there were any other announcements.

Senator Cohn remarked that the grounds were gorgeous for convocation.

Senator Wilson thanked the Senators for coming out and being a part.

Senator Babb announced that the university will be open on Memorial Day. There will be tables outside Manning from 11am-1pm where cards will be available for signing. She asked if there were any volunteers and Senators Cohn and Horton volunteered.

Meeting was adjourned by President Babb.