

STAFF SENATE MEETING
November 19, 2009

Present: Susan Babb, Sandra Barksdale, Kimberly Blair, Debra Ann Brown, Melissa Buchner, Amy Cable, Dorothy Colburn, Ladonnal Curry, Brad Frewin, Marijane Garrett, Linda Hall, Sharon Harber, Janet Hargrow, Lakesha Herring-Smith, Melvin Horton, Virginia Huss, Linda Hyatt, Phyllis Johnson, Patsy Krech, Barbara Kyker, Becky McCoy, Karen Newman, Belinda Scott, Ryan Seidner, Sherri Stephens, Joyce Stevenson, Joann Waddell, Brenda Woods.

Excused: John Farrell, Sandy Guntharp, CaSandra Lee Hughes, Temeka Jones, Judith Knight, Julia Rhodes

Absent: Regenia Ayers, Ali Bandy, Karen Bell, Carmen Davis, Susan Elliott, Brenda Field, William Harbin, Lanetha Hunt, Herbert McCree, Sherri Schwartz, Deborah Wilson,

Meeting was called to order by President Babb with 28 Senators present.

Special Guest: Dr. Shirley Raines

Dr. Raines said she was pleased that the University of Memphis had a Staff Senate because all institutions don't. She thanked everyone for their service and for pulling together to make the best out of this situation (economy).

She stated that our budget is made up of: 1/3 Tax Revenue, 1/3 Student tuition and fees and 1/3 grants, contracts, auxiliary services, tickets, grants and donors. Revenues come in through the end of the year. In the middle of January the Governor's budget will come forward and we will know how much will go towards Higher Education in June.

We can only hire temps under the State Funding and Recovery Funds. The stimulus is working but not as fast as we want it to work.

She encouraged us to continue to help students whenever they need help. The number of students we retain is very important. We have record enrollment and we want to keep all students. Retention numbers and graduation numbers is part of the formula.

Statement: Senator Brown in the Financial Aid Department informed Dr. Raines that it is a challenge trying to obtain scholarships for out-of-state students. Dr. Raines informed her that they are working with donors regarding this but many of the donors are from Tennessee. Senator Cable stated that the out-of-state students need to be educated regarding scholarships.

Question: Senator Melvin Horton asked Dr. Raines if she knew when construction would start on some of the projects:

Answer: Dr. Raines stated the following:

University Center moved in will be in January 2010. Grand Opening will be held in March 2010. The first event in the UC will be tonight with the Board of Visitors.

Downtown Law School will move during the Christmas Holidays. Classes will start in January 2010. The big gala will be held on January 16, 2010 for faculty, students, and donors.

West Hall will be completed in the spring, but students will not be allowed to move in until the fall.

Pan-Hellenic Building - Student Affairs will move out and space will become available for other areas.

Law School (old) renovation will start and Communications and Fine Arts will move into that location.

WKNO – some public health people will move in and those with educational research projects.

Question: Dr. Raines will there be a requirement for students to have laptops?

Answer: Dr. Raines stated that they are trying to survey it, but it will be up to the colleges.

Statement: Senator Huss stated that it is being implemented and it is working out great.

Question: Senator Huss asked Dr. Raines “if there is a possibility we will move from under TBR.”

Answer: Dr. Raines stated that the Governor is not ready to do that.

Senator Babb asked for roll call.

Senator Babb discussed signing up for the H1N1 vaccine. The vaccine is free but there is \$12.00 administrative cost. Once everyone has been vaccinated, the retirees who wish to receive H1N1 vaccine may register.

Senator Babb thanked Senator Marijane Garrett for the web page.....a job well done.

Senator Horton stated that the Holiday Party will be December 15th and bring a can good to be admitted. He also stated that the “ASK ME” buttons are being used throughout the University.

Committee Reports:

Issues & Review – Longevity Pay, Downtown Law School parking, Ombudsman

Legislative Advisory– No Report

By-Laws – No Report

Public Relations – No Report

Campus Safety – Senator Frewin reported on the issue regarding the railroad tracks. He stated that two engineers came from the City of Memphis.

Facilities – No Report

1st Year Experience – No Report

Dining Services – No Report

Election Committee – No Report

Space Planning – No Report

Traffic & Parking –

Policy Review – No Report

1st Friday – Tony Poteet spoke about various projects.

Sustainability – Senator Horton discussed toner and printer cartridges. Senator Newman stated that the recycling committee meets every Wednesday from 2:30-3:30. Also, to check with Sharon Richardson in Physical Plant regarding surplus for ink cartridges/toner

UC Advisory – No Report

U of M Giving – No Report

Fee Refund appeals – No Report

1st year experience – No Report

Dining services – No Report

Public Records – No Report

Meeting was adjourned by President Babb.