

## STAFF SENATE MEETING

October 16, 2009

Present: Regenia Ayers; Susan Babb; Karen Bell; Debra Ann Brown; Melissa Buchner; Amy Cable; Dorothy Colburn; Dean Franklin; M.J. Garrett; Linda Hall; Bill Harbin; Janet Hargrove; Lakesha Herring-Smith; Melvin Horton; CaSandra Hughes; Virginia Huss; Phyllis Johnson; Karen Newman; Belinda Scott; Ryan Seidner; Joyce Stevenson; Brenda Woods.

Excused: Kim Blair; LaDonnal Curry; John Farrell; Brad Frewin; Kim Wilson.

Unexcused:

Meeting was called to order by President Babb with 22 Senators present. A sign in sheet was passed around because the official roll was not available.

Senator Knight stated that she wanted to make sure all senator seats are filled and those that should be on board are on board. She passed a sheet around with a listing for each Senator to verify their information. She introduced the Director of Planned Giving, Dan Murrell to address the Staff Senate.

Mr. Murrell stated that planned giving creates long term consistent funding that helps in easing cuts. His job is to steward the members of the Column Society. This helps recognize those people who have given through planned giving. Marketing of planned giving can be accessed through the Column Society web site. Navigated on the home page that has links showing how to give, what to give, charitable gift annuities, etc. Cash or assets can be transferred to the university.

President Babb announced that the September 29<sup>th</sup> Faculty & Staff Reception had good participation. The December 15<sup>th</sup> Holiday open house is scheduled for 9:30am – 11:30am. President Raines has agreed to have the Food drive at the Holiday open House. H1N1 Vaccine is in Memphis and expected here at the end of next week. She stated that she is not sure of the volume that we will receive. Standing and University committees are still getting together and most have not met.

Policy & Review: Senator Buchner stated that they met on yesterday and so far they are looking at updating the policies.

Senator Huss stated that the Staff Senate was allocated a \$4,000 budget and had a \$1955 carry forward. Our current budget total is \$5492.23

Senator Babb asked if any other committees had information to share at this time?

Senator Knight stated that we need to be certain that all data is accurate.

Senator Buchner stated that she will forward the email addresses of cluster constituents.

Senator Garrett volunteered to update the Staff Senate web page.

Senator Horton stated that he is trying to get a date set for Celebration of Staff Day in the Spring. He talked with a representative from WUMR and the station has agreed to do a live remote from the Celebration of Staff at no charge. He also stated that the Food Drive can't start until after the annual giving campaign ends. He is shooting for Thanksgiving. He asked everyone to bring can goods and non-perishable food items as their ticket to the Holiday Open House.

President Babb asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September minutes?

Cassandra Lee stated that her last name was missing.

Senator Knight motioned to approve the minutes and Senator Colburn seconded.

Senator Huss stated that at the Academic Business Officers meeting the Staff Senate web site was discussed along with not knowing their clusters, members, and what the Staff Senate does. They felt that on-line communication is not open in sharing information about the Staff Senate.

Senator Franklin stated that Academic Affairs has an Ombudsman person and suggested that the Staff Senate have a similar person.

Senator Huss stated that the Staff Senate had one previously but she is not sure what happened to that position.

Senator Buchner suggested that the Staff Senate run a search for an Ombudsman.

Senator Franklin asked if the Staff Senate web site had the capability to enter an issue anonymously?

Senator Bell stated that web services has an application for comment boxes that allow you to select your entry to be anonymous or not. She also stated that she felt the election committee should be responsible for maintaining cluster lists.

Senator Huss stated that she would like to see key reps and key rep meetings returned.

Senator Babb stated that she would contact HR and find out when and if that can start again. She also stated that Dr. Raines will be attending our next meeting. She also stated that she would like to get membership and the web site straightened out in November.

Senator Colburn stated that the Law School is moving downtown and there will be a parking problem. Payroll deductions will not be made for parking and each individual will be responsible for attaining their individual parking arrangements. She asked the Staff Senate to inquire about getting payroll deductions.

Senator Babb stated that the university is working on getting parking for the Law School faculty and staff and she will follow up on that.

Senator Hall asked if there has been a change in the way longevity will be distributed.

Senator Colburn stated that you can decide if you want a separate check or if you want it attached to your regular paycheck.

Meeting was adjourned by Senator Babb.