

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

February 2010

Present: Susan Babb, Sandra Barksdale, Debra Brown, Ladonnal Curry, Sandy Guntharp, Linda Hall, Sharon Harber, William Harbin, Janet Hargrow, Melvin Horton, Linda Hyatt, Judith Knight, Patsy Krech, Barbara Kyker, Belinda Scott, Ryan Seidner, Sherri Stephens, Joann Waddell, Kimberly Wilson, Brenda Woods

Excused: Kimberly Blair, Melissa Buchner, Amy Cable, Carmen Davis, John Farrell, Marijane Garrett, Phyllis Johnson, Becky McCoy, Karen Newman, Julia Rhodes

Unexcused: Ali Bandy, Karen Bell, Dorothy Colburn, Susan Elliot, Brad Frewin, Virginia Huss, Joyce Stevenson

Sandra Barksdale moved and Melvin Horton seconded to accept minutes with changes.

Presentation by Calvin Strong, Director of Custodial and Landscape Services about the university's recycling program.

- Sustainability initiative- establish policies, measure carbon footprint, and determine how we can offset carbon footprint (ex. how much employees fly for business, creation of green house gases)
- A committee is being established to address how to invest with organizations that have sustainability. If we ship our materials to a recycler that sends the materials to a landfill then we have not met our goals.
- Several years ago students voted in a green fee.
- We have increased what we recycle, Pepsi does not utilize cans, just bottles so this decreases the amount of aluminum we collect. Quickly realized that we need more people to collect materials or change our system. May increase green fee money or maybe completely change our recycling system to decrease the amount of time we touch items (to be more efficient).
- We have spent \$12,000 on salaries and ordered a \$75,000 truck to help gather materials. We have about \$14,000 in containers that have been purchased. Now we have more containers than we can service. We are running about 50% of salary for benefits.
- 120 people signed up on Face book site. Volunteers help at ballgames to pick up recyclables as our culture does not do this well. As part of recycle mania we are working on dorm competitions and between fraternities and sororities. There is a recycling committee and a pool of about 100 people to assist. Need to grow participation from university in general including students.
- We have a company that will collect toner cartridges, but HP lets you print a sticker and send back to them. Will be sending out an email if you are returning cartridges so we can get credit

for this activity. Trying to incorporate the 'homemade' systems on campus so they can be counted.

- 4 electrical vehicles on campus and 6 more ordered. Operational cost is 1/20 of a gas powered vehicle and maintenance is almost nonexistent. Purchased propane lawnmowers due to no carbon emissions, the negative is the time it takes to recharge. Looking at the possibility of decorating boxes for recycling, as the cost of \$7 per box is cost prohibitive for every office on campus.
- Sometimes have infestations of bees on campus, but if we kill all the bees on the planet then within 4 years all life will no longer exist on earth. Integrated Pest Management system is what the university uses, to decrease the amount of toxins utilized. If you take away the opportunity and reason for a pest to be there they will likely leave.
- Styrofoam- we don't have a location to collect it. Someone in life science collects it but we don't have a place to store it.
- 15 cardboard slots across campus. Building website to include those sites in the next several months.
- Safety issues with batteries, different types placed together can be a fire hazard.
- Recycling rooms in Fed Ex, Wilder, and UC. New buildings on campus have a room inside to collect recycled materials.
- Currently not recycling in the dorms, but are working on doing this.
- We don't get money back from recycling cardboard and paper. Waste management handles this as part of their contract to help offset fees. When the university takes cardboard to be recycled we do get reimbursed, but it is not enough to offset incurred fees.
- Gas blowers do have a carbon footprint and The University is looking at options but not aware of alternative options at this time.
- 40-60% of students make their decision about which university to attend based on appearance of the campus.
- Not working with contractors on campus regarding recycling including cafeteria vendors due to contracts.

There is no money to reimburse staff for parking fees at the downtown law school. This will be brought to Dr. Raines' attention.

Dr. Raines has asked David Cox to put together an administrative council that will include the executive council and a representative from the staff senate. The agenda will include: program and capital

initiatives, Memphis research consortium, academic program review, 2010-2011 budget priorities and process, and centennial planning.

Staff senate has been asked to have a representative for the Love Community Service Award. Melvin will be our representative.

The move to the UC is scheduled for March 15th, fire marshal is inspecting today.

Longevity vote 758 voted to leave as is, 99 voted to separate, 1628 did not vote so they counted as leave as is. Therefore we are assuming the pay will not be separated.

No expenditures since last meeting. Current balance is \$5276. We don't want to have a lot of money left over as this presumes we don't need what we have been given.

Melvin Horton and his committee are working on staff appreciation day. Senator Horton spoke with Dr. Raines' office; tentative date is Friday June 4th in the Rose Theater. Theme will be similar to a school fair that will include games as well as food.

- Suggestion: Physical plant has baked products brought by staff in their office and this is a lot of fun.
- June 4th will be very busy for many offices since this is the last day for students to enroll. Asked if could be moved to last of May. Senator Horton will check with Dr. Raines' office regarding her availability.

Senators Seidner, Farrell, and Frewin are committee members for sustainability.

Jude Knight-no updates.

The University is being considered for the Governor's Stewardship Award due to the organic garden.

If staff have unused ink cartridges, put in work order and they will be salvaged.

Janet Hargrow has agreed to be the temporary secretary until a permanent secretary can be appointed or elected.

March 18th next meeting.