

Staff Senate Monthly Meeting

January 21, 2010

Present: Susan Babb, Sandra Barksdale, Kimberly Blair, Melissa Buchner, Dorothy Colburn, Carmen Davis, Marijane Garrett, Sandy Guntharp, Sharon Harber, William Harbin, Melvin Horton, Virginia Huss, Phyllis Johnson, Judith Knight, Patsy Krech, Becky McCoy, Karen Newman, Julia Rhodes, Belinda Scott, Ryan Seidner, Sherri Stephens, Joyce Stevenson, Joann Waddell, Kimberly Wilson

Excused: Amy Cable, Ladonnal Curry, John Farrell, Brad Frewin, Linda Hall, Janet Hargrow, Linda Hyatt, Barbara Kyker,

Unexcused: Ali Bandy, Karen Bell, Susan Elliott, Temeka Jones, Brenda Woods

- 15 parking spaces are available for faculty at the new downtown law building at a discounted rate in a nearby garage for students at downtown law school. However, there continue to be more staff than parking spaces, therefore one staff member who purchased a permit is paying for parking twice on some days, if she has a meeting on the main campus. Someone will be asked to speak to the staff senate on this issue.
- Virginia reported \$216 was paid for food during the December meeting, Our new account balance is \$5276.08
- Membership report by Jude- currently 10 openings, not including those members who will roll off later this year. Just received a list of those people who can serve and the number is down by 80. It was 1300 before. Therefore, the number for each cluster will be reassessed. For the spring elections the same system from last year will be used however, moving forward a better technological system will be utilized that addresses: eligibility, who does not want to be elected, terms served, those who turn down nominations, and elected positions. IT hopes to spend more time on this system over the summer when they are not quite so busy. Our system cannot be supported by IT on an ongoing basis. Hope to begin spring elections in March.
- Melvin reported that the staff senate collected 892 pounds of food during the Holiday Luncheon and a few days following. 6025 pounds were collected during the 2009 calendar year. The Food Bank was very appreciative and plans to send a thank you letter to Dr. Raines. A date for the staff luncheon celebration will probably occur the first of June, between semesters.
- During last term the staff senate by-laws were revised. Staff senators are asked to be familiar with them, especially if you are the head of a committee. One more person is needed for the by-laws committee. A question was asked about the number of absences allowed. Excused absences do not count as an absence.
- VP for Communications reported that the 100 year anniversary and celebration for the university is coming up in 2012. He is assisting President Raines with this centennial campaign along with two subcommittee co-chairs. A major capital campaign is one of the pieces of the celebration. The amount to be raised has not yet been determined by the president. We will be celebrating the history of the university but also looking forward into the future.

The 4 goals during the celebration:

- 1) Celebrate academic excellence scholarship and creativity of faculty and students.
- 2) Showcase research, publications, compositions, and productions through engaged scholarship (example- mentoring with the MCS).
- 3) Through engaged scholarship demonstrate necessity for a vibrant financially strong university.
- 4) Recruit and retain the best students, faculty, and staff.

◆ VP has met with some groups on campus and a formal history of the university is being compiled through 2 books,

- ◆ Looking at calendar of university to see what events will be happening that we can utilize for the year of the centennial celebration. Staff senators are encouraged to do the same in each of our areas. Think big, dream big and then the university will have to figure out how to pay for it.
- ◆ Centennial calendar is being composed. First half of calendar will be done by the end of February and the second half by the end of May.
- ◆ Capital campaign- need to find additional \$ for research, paid professorships, and scholarships for students. Want everyone to participate in fund raising and activities.
- ◆ Dreamer, Thinkers, Doers continues to be our motto.
- ◆ Will begin seeing seal of the university with a ribbon and 1912-2012.
- ◆ A Website will be generated shortly for people who have been involved with the university to tell their stories.
- ◆ Much research and feedback from the community has gone into this campaign.

Reports

- Plastic recycle bins are being placed in all buildings and everyone is encouraged to use them. 50 additional recycling containers have been ordered.
- 1179 plants have been placed in the administrative building which helps save electricity. A local company provided the plants after winning the bid for this large number of tropical plants. Engineering took readings before the plants were placed in the administrative building and will be taken again later and this may turn into a publishable study.
- Large plants will be added to the UC. Recycled bottles are being used with the soil.
- Email Calvin Strong if you want plants in your building.
- The garden is taking off again this year with new additions including ADA accessibility. The garden plants are being cultivated.
- Put in work order or call ext. 1431 to have recyclable bottles, cans, cardboard, batteries and toner (some vendors allow toners to be mailed back to them for free) picked up. Keys can also be recycled.
- Call ext. 2824 to have shredded paper picked up.
- What happens to the funds that we receive for recycling? Don't know.
- Night students are lost, especially after most staff go home, a big banner may be needed to point people to the welcome center.
- Next meeting February 18, 2010.