

## STAFF SENATE MEETING

June 17, 2010

**Present:** Susan Babb, Sandra Barksdale, DebraAnn Brown, Amy Cable, Ladonnal Curry, Carmen Davis, John Farrell, Brad Frewin, Marijane Garrett, Sandy Guntharp, Linda Hall, Sharon Harber, William Harbin, Virginia Huss, Judith Knight, Patsy Krech, Becky McCoy, Karen Newman, Jean Rakow, Belinda Scott, Ryan Seidner, Joyce Stevenson, Phyllis Johnson, Brenda Woods

**Excused:** Melissa Buchner, Dorothy Colburn, Janet Hargrow, Melvin Horton, Linda Hyatt, Julia Rhodes, Joann Waddell, Barbara Kyker

**Unexcused:** Ali Bandy, Karen Bell, Kimberly Blair, Susan Elliott, CaSandra Hughes, Sherri Stephens, Kimberly Wilson

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

There were no changes to the May 2010 minutes. A motion was made by Senator Knight and seconded by Senator Cable to approve the May 2010 minutes.

President Babb asked for roll call.

### Issues

*Tuition Increase.* The expected tuition increase will be voted on during the June 24 – 25 meeting at TBR. The expected increase will be 5 – 5 ½ %.

*Employee Raises.* No across the board raises are possible for the upcoming fiscal year. There is a potential one-time additional longevity bonus, which will not affect current longevity bonuses. The prospective bonus will be awarded based on years of service and will be calculated based on \$50 per each year of service up to 25 years. Therefore, the maximum bonus amount is slated to be \$1,250. This potential additional bonus is based on revenues collected from the state. The matter will not be voted upon until the books are closed. If the one-time bonus is approved, Dr. Raines will announce in her annual letter. The additional amount will be included in the October 2010 payroll.

### **Reports**

*Executive Report:* The Aramark charge for Staff Appreciation Day, \$5,523.12, has not posted to the senate account.

*Public Relations:* No report.

*Voting:* Electronic voting ends today, June 17, 2010. Extending voting time will be granted to Cluster D, Physical Plant, due to departmental shift changes.

Senator Knight stated the winners of the election are based on those persons receiving the highest votes. She plans to have an idea of the future senators by July 1. Once determined, she will contact those who have been elected to serve.

When the current year election process is completed, Senator Knight will meet with Senator Bell to work on automating the system to make tabulation easier. All documentation will be presented to the incoming President for future use.

*Senate Elections Issues:*

A few current senators who should not be on the ballot are indicated on the ballot. This issue will be reviewed.

*Election Related Questions:*

What is the process if an individual wins the election, but is no longer employed with the University? This incident occurred in Cluster B.

*Answer.* The employment status of the individuals with the highest votes is verified by Human Resources. If that individual is no longer employed with the University, the employee with the next highest votes will be contacted to serve.

Senator Horton has moved to a new cluster. Is he eligible to complete his term in the new cluster?

*Answer.* President Babb requested to follow the by-laws. If an employee transfers from the current cluster into another cluster, he/she is no longer eligible in the new cluster. Therefore, Senator Horton is ineligible to complete his term.

By-Laws Committee: Considering a Parliamentary position within the senate.

The role of the Parliamentary would serve as an advisor to the senate President. This would allow the President to focus on the content of the meeting. The following concern and questions were raised:

Concerns:

- If the position is added, is anyone willing to fill the role?

Questions:

- Are we formal enough as a group?
- Should we continue to allow the executive committee to handle all the formalities?

President Babb stated that we are more of an advisory group, but a Parliamentary would be good to keep us on track. This will be voted on at a later date.

University Committee: No report

Fee Appeals: Committee met, but was unable to make a formal decision based on limited number of committee members in attendance.

Space Planning: Senator Harbin stated group was unable to meet during normally scheduled time, but he plans to turn the position over to Senator Stephens.

Campus Services: No updates.

1<sup>st</sup> Friday: Next meeting is in September.

UC Advisory: No future reports based on the completion of the University Center.

Constituent Job Security Issue brought forth by Senator Harber:

An employee with extensive University experience transfers to a new department. During the 6 month probationary period, the employee is advised of a pending termination. Does the employee have any options or recourse? Is this a Staff Senate issue?

Purportedly, TBR has plans in place regarding this issue. Senator Huss stated she has seen this happen to one other person in the past. This person was placed in another position. Senator Huss also stated the 6 mo probationary period has been a source of contention for some time. Senator Knight suggested contacting Human Resources regarding the issue.

Senator Harber will contact Senator Buchner, Issues & Review Committee, who will subsequently contact Human Resources. Dr. Jean Rakow was unaware of the policy. She will research and contact Senator Buchner if she finds anything.

President Babb advised incoming president, Senator Cable, to champion the cause once her term begins. She also stated she will talk to David Zettergren, Vice President for Business and Finance, regarding this issue.

In the meantime, the individual has plans to speak with someone in Human Resources and to follow up with Senator Harber. Senator Harber stated that people may want to consider this issue before moving to another department.

Next month, Senator Cable will be sworn as the new President.

President Babb asked all senators rolling off and incoming officers to attend the next meeting which is scheduled for July 15, 2010.

Meeting was adjourned by President Babb.

**Next Meeting – July 15, 2010 at 9:30 am  
University Center, Room #261**