

Staff Senate Minutes
Thursday, March 17, 2016, UC 261
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome
2. Call Meeting to Order—meeting called to order at 9:31 by Vickie Peters.
3. Dr. Rudd came to meeting to discuss issues related to the Staff Senate—

Dr. Rudd was in Nashville to talk about the Focus Act...it should pass without any trouble. Three primary concerns—Faculty Senate wants to be able to appoint a faculty member, this amendment was approved and will be selected by the faculty senate. The administration will not have any role in the selection of the faculty member. Student member will not be added; amendment failed. Dr. Rudd agrees that there should be a staff member and student member. Once the board is formed, there may be some type of appointment available for a staff member. This will be a two year commitment. Anyone serving on the board will have full access to all issues that come to the university. The board will be transparent and give full access at a local level.

All existing policies i.e. HR, tenure/promotion should remain the same. July 1, 2017 will begin the new term of the board. Transparency and accountability will be the main feature of our governing board; we will still be accountable to THEC. We have capacity to continue the majority of contracts that have been negotiated under TBR. The transition task force is led by Melanie Murray. Budget and capital increases will some of the primary objectives for the board. The university will have an increase of \$6.3M this year; the increase helps to close the \$20M funding gap. We lost \$44M from state funding over the past 8 years.

The naming of board members will happen in January or February of 2017 by the governor. Each appointment will be vetted by the House and the Senate. There will be working groups on campus to support the board. The current Board of Visitors will stay in place and become an advisory board more centered on development, fundraising and marketing. Some members of the BOV may become members of the board.

There will be some partnerships between the City of Memphis and the university to help improve the image of the city and to encourage recruitment. Crime in the university district is down.

Dr. Rudd talked very favorably about the hiring of new Physical Plant Director Ron Brooks.

Administratively we are too big, without adequate administration, we struggle. As high level administrators leave, is there a way to reallocate resources to have people to receive better pay.

Money needs to be allocated each year to take care of salary compression. There is no money in the budget from the governor for raises on this year. Dr. Rudd wants to create a compression pool and a merit pool, that is his commitment...the amount may be small. We cannot raise tuition, we are at the top of the cost for tuition. UT is heavily recruiting in this area, we lost around 200 freshmen to UT this past fall. We have admitted 11,800 students at this time. Dr. Rudd wants to have a targeted discount for FedEx employees to improve student enrollment.

We are in the top 25 in the country as far as being supportive of the basketball program, but we are not in the top 100 as far as performance...that is not acceptable.

4. Roll Call—Members present: Becky Amos, Eric Bailey, Sharon Beasley, Karen Bell, Lindsey Bray, Cedric Burgess, Constance Butts, Paul Cade, Rhonda Consentino, Sheron Davenport, Alfreda Davis, Hilary DeLuco, Geoffrey Fenlong, Jill Green, Ilene Hogan, Kate Howard, Virginia Huss, Latica Jones, Paige LeBlanc, Megan MacLeod, Vickie Peters, Brennan Reeves, Felicia Roddy-Jackson, Penny Saed, Barrett Schwarz, Deborah Scott, Denna West, Elinor Williams

Absent: Jessica Bigger, Brigitte Billeaudeau, Charles Black, Jessica Bromwell, George Copeland, Norman Fuller, Billy Goldsby, Sharon Harber (excused), Lisa Howell, Janet Hargrow (excused) Lauren Kane, Kevin Langellier (excused), Amelia Mayahi (excused), Hector Ramirez, Eric Sabin, Beth Ann Simpson, Debra Turner (excused) Jennifer Walker (excused), Kim Wilson (excused)

5. Old Business – Approval of February minutes--

6. New Business

- a. Discussion of Senate's Employee Survey—take a minute to review the survey so that we will know how to move forward.
- b. Staff Appreciation Day
 - i. Date, location, format—Vickie has contacted Aramark for date and time. Mr. Cade suggested moving the event off-site. The price last year was \$4.00 per person. Lambuth will also have the same format. Hugh Busby's class will make the flyers for the appreciation day.
 - ii. Volunteers for committee-- Volunteers are needed to help with the event.
- c. Election of Officers
 - i. Senators in second year of term—if you are coming up on your 2nd year, then probably should not stand for an office. If planning to be president, then requires a lot of flexibility.
 - ii. Date of election

7. Committee Reports

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| Campus Safety and Security: | Vickie Peters |
| Facilities and Services: | Alfreda Davis, Paige LeBlanc |
| Fee Refunds and Appeals: | Felicia Roddy-Jackson |
| | Alfreda Davis |
| Food Services/Dining: | Lindsey Bray |

Public Records and Forms:

Latica Jones

Traffic and Parking:

Jill Green, Penny Saed

Space Policy Council:

Vickie Peters

Sustainability:

ESAC (IT):

Debra Turner

Policy Review Board:

Vickie Peters

Policy being finalized on person of authority where should not be in a personal relationship with student or subordinate.

8. UMAR report

9. Questions/Concerns

10. Adjournment Felicia Roddy Jackson and Alfreda Davis voted to adjourn at 10:39.