

University of Memphis Staff Senate Meeting Minutes January 16, 2014

- Present:** JoAnn Ammons, Karen Bell, Charles Black, Lindsey Bray, Ann Brock, Dan Bureau, Hugh Busby, Constance Butts, Ilene Cooper, Debra Cummings, Alfreda Davis, Vonda Dede, Emma Elliott, John Farrell, Brad Frewin, Rodney Gray, Sharon Harber, Ashley Holloway, Ann Hudson, Robert Marczynski, Nichole McBride, William Mueller, Vickie Peters, Nicholas Racz, Penny Saed, Gina Savell, Kate Sims, Sherri Stephens, Debra Turner, Lofton Wilborn, Brian Wilcox
- Excused:** DebraAnn Brown, Pam Chambers, Nick Conway, Candy Donald, Racheal Hall, Riviera Hollowell, Lisa Justen, Jennifer Walker
- Unexcused:** Marco Anderson, LaTondra Arnett, Bradley Arnold, Barbara Bekis, Brigitte Boyd, Loren Estes, Rosemary Frix, Larrick Johnson, Amy Jones, Georgette Kearney, Keri Means, Kutanya Niter
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President Hugh Busby called the meeting to order

Roll Call

New Business

- Staff Appreciation Day Discussion
 - Senator Constance Butts asked what our budget for the event was.
 - President Hugh Busby responded by saying that our budget is \$4,000. He also stated that in years past we have been able to spend up to twice the amount of our budget but this year we will not be able to do that so we need to think of a way to have a fun event using less money than usual.
 - President Busby suggested having an ice cream social rather than a full meal.
 - Senator Ann Hudson proposed offering a sandwich, chips and a drink. It was determined that we did not have enough money in the budget for the lighter meal idea.
 - Senator Hudson also noted the last time we had pizza for the meal that there were several left over. President Busby reminded the Senate that we would not be able to please everybody but that we should try to find something that would appeal to the majority.

- Senator Lindsey Bray advised the Senate that, due to the contract between the University and Aramark, we cannot mix off-campus food/drink suppliers with Aramark. She also questioned if the dollar amount on the meal vouchers from last year (\$8.00) could be lowered.
 - Vice President Sherri Stephens stated that it may not be enough to purchase a full meal if we did them for less than \$8.00.
 - Senator Vickie Peters said that according to Aramark vouchers must be at least \$7.00 to get anything close to a full meal.
- Senator Dan Bureau asked what the objectives of Staff Appreciation Day are and if there was a standard agenda that we adhere to.
 - President Busby stated that the Executive Committee would meet to identify the objectives and agenda for this year's event. Possible ideas were: a time to fellowship, to invite a motivating speaker such as Coaches Josh Pastner or Justin Fuente, or just hang-out and enjoy each other.
- Senator Karen Bell asked about entertainment and suggested several ideas:
 - Have Pouncer attend
 - Graffiti art
 - Since we are limited on food, maybe just chips and dip from Aramark, or Garibaldi's pizza.
 - Can we get drinks donated by Pepsi? (This has been done in the past.)
- President Busby asked if we wanted to have games available again this year. He said that people seemed to like them in the past.
 - Senator Sharon Harbor noted that she was in charge of the games her first year as a senator. That year many of them were "Minute-To-Win-It" type games, but maybe this year we could do tailgate-type games like cornhole or ladder ball because people tend to like the element of competition and interaction more.
 - Vice President Stephens asked Senator Harbor if she would like to head up the games again this year, and Senator Harbor agreed.
 - Senator Bray reminded everyone how popular the massage station was last year and suggested we have it available again.
 - Senate Secretary Kate Sims noted that there is a massage school in the city and offered to contact them. She said that sometimes they will come to events like our Staff Appreciation Day and do free neck and shoulder massages. It's a good way for their students to get in the practice hours required for their certificate.
- Senator Debra Turner asked about the giveaways, door prizes, etc... that are usually done and if we were going to do them this year. President

Busby indicated that he thought we would as they are one of the things that many staff members look forward to.

- President Busby asked the Senate when they wanted to schedule the Staff Appreciation Day. A majority of senators agreed that some time during the final two weeks of May would be best, because the spring semester would be over but summer classes would not have started yet.
- There was a small discussion about whether to have the event inside or outside, but due to the inconsistency of our weather it was quickly decided that we would hold it inside the University Center as in the past.
- President Busby indicated that the core committee for the Staff Appreciation Day is the Executive Committee; the Staff Senate President, Vice President, Secretary, and each Senator currently serving on a university committee as the Staff Senate Representative. The Executive Committee members agreed to meet on Thursday, January 30 and again on Thursday, February 13 to discuss plans for the event.
- Vice President Sherri Stephens reported information about the new hybrid Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) plan and the new Optional Retirement Plan which will both be effective July 1 this year. Current members of either retirement plan will not be affected by the changes, but new employees who are hired on or after July 1, 2014 will only be able to choose between the two new plans. Information about the new TCRS plan can be found at www.treasury.tn.gov/tcrs and selecting the tab titled "State & Teacher Plans". As of February 2014 the State of Tennessee has not posted information about the new Optional Retirement Plan yet.
- President Busby announced that the Provost, Dr. Rudd, will be addressing the Senate during their regularly scheduled meeting on March 20, 2014. Senators were encouraged to submit any questions they have for Dr. Rudd to President Busby as soon as possible.

Committee Reports

- Budget: No changes to report
- Issues & Review: No report
- Campus Safety and Security: No report – have not yet met
- Facilities and Services: No report – have not yet met
- Fee Refunds and Appeals: No report
- Food Services/Dining: No report
- Public Records and Forms: No report

- Space Planning: Meeting was cancelled/No report
- Traffic and Parking: No report
- Policy and Review: No report
- Sustainability: No report
- Bylaws committee: No report
- ESAC: No report

Announcements

- UMAR- see their web site for upcoming events, details, and information including the UMAR Scholarship report: <http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php>

Questions/Concerns

- The floor was opened for questions and/or concerns with nothing being asked or reported.

Approval of December 2013 Minutes

- Motion to approve by Dan Bureau
- Second by Ann Hudson

Meeting Adjourned

- Motion to Adjourn by Penny Saed
- Second by Lofton Wilborn