

University of Memphis Staff Senate Meeting Minutes February 20, 2014

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

Roll Call

Approval of January 2014 Minutes

- Motion to approve by Alfreda Davis
- Second by DebraAnn Brown

Guest Speakers

- Tom Smith and Jessica Buttermore from the United Campus Workers Association (UCWA)
 - Mr. Smith and Ms. Buttermore briefly discussed the history of the UCWA including its roots at UT Knoxville in 1999. They noted that there are currently UCWA members at all UT and TBR institutions state-wide.
 - Mr. Smith stated that an organizing committee was formed and began recruiting members at the University of Memphis in 2009 and, since then, 10% of campus workers have joined the UCWA.
 - The UCWA is seeking a living wage for campus workers, pushing for more transparency, and asking for more post-employment benefits such as a change in health and retirement benefits.
 - Mr. Smith and Ms. Buttermore also indicated the following:
 - The UCWA is working with the State Legislature to improve working conditions and pay for campus workers.

- The rate of State support for campus workers is declining – Higher Education funding rarely increases like K-12 does.
- The UCWA has issues with how the State spent stimulus money, the Association believes Higher Education did not receive as much as it should have.
- The UCWA believes the budgeting model at the University of Memphis is harmful, and the increases that the State has imposed on our health care premiums are unfair.
- For more information about the United Campus Workers Association you can visit their website at UCW-CWA.org.
- Senator Ann Hudson asked how much the membership dues were. Mr. Smith replied that they begin at \$13 per month with an optional sliding scale above that based on salary. GA's and Part Time staff can join for \$8 per month.

New Business

- Staff Appreciation Day
 - May 14, 2014 from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM in the Tiger Den (formally the Fresh Food Market)
 - This year's budget is very limited – half of what we had last year – so we have decided to go with breakfast instead of lunch.
 - Aramark is working with us to provide a full breakfast menu and we will secure drinks from Sandy Barksdale as we have in the past. We will need Senate members to volunteer to keep the drink stations full, and we will check on getting coffee from Aramark as well.
 - The Tiger Den will be set up with two identical hot-lines for staff members to get their food. The menu will consist of items such as fruit, sausage, eggs, hash browns, biscuits, yogurt and assorted pastries.
 - Food vouchers, good only for the Staff Appreciation Day celebration, will be used.
 - Tommy Miller from Parking Services will be present with information about the BlueLine and parking safety. Jacqueline DeFouw and others from the Health Center and Memphis Healthy U initiative will be there offering free blood pressure checks. And we are still working on having several massage therapists available for the Staff to enjoy as well.
 - Senate Vice President Stephens asked that each Senator solicit two (2) donations each as door prizes/drawings for this year's Staff Appreciation Day.
 - Senator Lindsey Bray has set up a donation web site: <http://bit.ly/1eXUEgX> for the Staff Senate to use. Please note on this site any businesses you have and/or plan on contacting for the purpose of soliciting donations. Even if they are unable to offer anything, add them to the list so they are not contacted by another Senate member. And check the site before you contact a business for a donation to be sure

- they have not already been communicated with. The bookstore on campus has already agreed to a donation.
- Dr. Lattimore has indicated that the Lambuth campus will probably have a Staff Appreciation Day celebration on May 16, 2014, and we are invited to join them.
 - We will pin down the details of our celebration by our April Senate meeting.
 - Staff Senate Elections will be in May but there has not been a definite date set.
 - Vice President Stephens announced that Provost Rudd would be our speaker during our March 20, 2014 Senate meeting (*edit; because of the University of Memphis Presidential search sessions during this same week, Dr. Rudd's visit has been moved to April*).
 - Please email any questions you or your constituents have to Jean Rakow at jhrakow@memphis.edu or Sherri Stephens at sgstphns@memphis.edu so they may be forwarded to Dr. Rudd beforehand. If you would rather remain anonymous you may submit your questions through the suggestion box on the President's web site or the Staff Senate's web site.
 - Senator Kutanya Niter asked what kind of pressure the Staff Senate has with Aramark. She stated that the doors, windows, and back area in the University Center Food Court are very dirty.
 - Senator Alfreda Davis asked if it was okay to share information with her constituents about the UCWA. Senate Secretary Kate Sims encouraged Senators to contact the legal department regarding the method for sharing the information, and the professional title one should use (i.e. co-worker vs. Staff Senator, etc...). Senate Vice President Sherri Stephens suggested checking with employee-UCWA members too.
 - Vice President Sherri Stephens reported that the Senate has not received any new information about the reorganizations.

Committee Reports

- Budget: Current balance is \$3921.11 and most of it has been budgeted for Staff Appreciation Day
- Issues & Review: No Report
- Campus Safety and Security: Currently reviewing and making changes to UM1293 OSHA Policy, and there is an RFP for an outside consultant to review 'facility functions'.
- Facilities and Services: Reviewed plans for the Park Avenue Campus changes.
- Fee Refunds and Appeals: Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2014.

- Food Services/Dining: No Report
- Public Records and Forms: No Report
- Space Planning: No Report
- Traffic and Parking: Beginning March 1, 2014, it will cost \$15.30 per month for a general parking permit on the Park Avenue Campus. This reduced rate could be an incentive for employees who choose to park on Park Ave. Campus and ride the BlueLine to the main campus.
- Policy and Review: No Report
- Sustainability: No Report
- Bylaws committee: No Report
- ESAC: Met yesterday, but Senator Lofton Wilborn was unable to attend. He states that he will get the minutes from the meeting and forward them to Senate President Busby.

Announcements

- UMAR- see their web site for upcoming events:
<http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php>
- Jean Rakow encouraged all members of the Staff Senate to attend the on-campus open meetings with the candidates for President during the week of March 17. She stated this would be our time to ask questions and participate. More information would be forthcoming via email soon. Ms. Rakow also stated that a second campus visit would be on April 2nd.

Questions/Concerns

- Senator Bridgette Boyd missed roll call during the January meeting and asked that the roll be adjusted accordingly. She also asked if the notes from the last Executive Committee meeting could be shared.
- Senator Katunya Niter questioned whether she was on the main Senate email list as she is not getting all of the meeting announcements.

Meeting Adjourned by Senate Vice President Sherri Stephens