**The Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 15, 2014**

**Raburn Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on May 15, 2014 in the Raburn Conference Room.

**II. Introduction of Proxies & Roll Call**

Members present were Melissa Thornton, Jimmy Waddell, Anita Holcombe, Keith Fields, Randall Phifer, Haley Brink, Janet Jones, Molly Vaughn, Susan Hughes, Paula Hailey, George Sherrill, and Thomas Tidmore

**Absent:** Peggy Wingo

**III. Approval of Minutes from the April 14th Meeting**

Ms. Haley Brink made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Susan Hughes seconded. All present and approved the minutes as presented.

**IV. Approval of Agenda for the May 15th Meeting**

Ms. Anita Holcombe made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Molly Vaughn seconded. All present and approved the agenda as presented.

**V. Staff Senate President’s Report**

Ms. Melissa Thornton and Mr. Jimmy Waddell will be meeting with Mr. Lesley Peterson, President and Mr. Scott Infanger, President-Elect of the Faculty Senate, to collaborate thoughts on the letter to the Board of Trustees regarding a possible cost of living raise for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Melissa Thornton will be sending an email addressing the eight vacancies on the Staff Senate for the next term. There are some senators that are willing to serve another term. Ms. Molly Vaughn suggested that a brief narrative be attached to nominations. The new senators will begin their terms in July.

**VI. Shared Governance Committee Reports**

No updates to report.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

Ms. Melissa Thornton recently sent the proposed changes to the Staff Senate bylaws to the President, which was approved. Below are the proposed changes:

1. Revise officers’ (all) terms such that they begin on July 1st and end June 30th

2. Elections to take place in May rather than April

3. To the duties of the Vice President, add Chair of the Wellness Committee

Ms. Molly Vaughn reported that the Staff Senate Survey has been submitted to the staff employees. She has followed-up with one reminder. As of today, she has received 144 responses. A second reminder will follow. All senators are reminded to encourage their departments to participate in the survey. Suggestions were made to submit to staff earlier next week because of many staff employees are not on campus during semester breaks.

**VIII. and IX. New Business and Discussion**

Mr. Jimmy Waddell reported on the Board retreat which was held on Monday, May 14th. Topics

discussed were:

Mr. David Shields – the new residence halls, the combination of housing/residence life

Dr. Dan Hendricks- the capital campaign, the addition of three scholars

Dr. Thomas Thornell- a new Spanish degree, a combined effort with University of Alabama for a new engineering degree, a combined effort with Delta State for a new aviation degree, the progression of the new science building, approximately three million has been raised toward advancing toward Division I,

President Cale- Blue Cross Blue Shield premiums will increase by $86,000 in the fall,

there were 24 faculty promotions, a 1% pay increase for the university would cost $400,000, would like to see a 3% increase , another $100,000 will be allocated toward staff midpoints

Ms. Melissa Thornton suggested that since the Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9th, the same day as our next Staff Senate meeting, we should move our meeting to Tuesday, June 10th.

Mr. Jimmy Waddell has received one nomination for vice president and no nominations for secretary. The floor was opened for nominations for secretary. Ms. Susan Hughes nominated Ms. Anita Holcombe. Ms. Molly Vaughn made a motion to elect Ms. Anita Holcombe. Ms. Susan Hughes seconded. Ms Anita Holcombe accepted the nomination, pending reelection of another term as senator. Mr. Jimmy Waddell made a motion to postpone the election of secretary until the next meeting. Ms. Molly Vaughn seconded. Mr. Jimmy Waddell has one nomination for Vice President which is Ms. Molly Vaughn. Ms. Anita Holcombe made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Keith Fields seconded. By a show of hands Ms. Molly Vaughn is elected to serve as Vice President.

**X. Announcements**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 10th, 2014.

**X. Adjournment**

Mr. Jimmy Waddell made a motion to adjourn meeting. Ms. Molly Vaughn seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Holcombe