

STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2009

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order at 10:00 on October 12, 2009 in Wesleyan Hall Conference Room by Jennifer Smith.

Present:

Present Members were: Jennifer Smith, Kari-Kay Harp, Pam Trimble, Sara Huntley, Kevin Jacques, Steve Burnett, James Burton, George Sherrill, Chuck Fadell, Joan Smith, Pam Osborn, Ethan Humphres, and Missy Pettus for Chris Horn.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

III. Staff Senate President's Report

Nothing to Report.

IV. Shared Governance Committee Reports

Terry Richardson, Chair of Shared Governance, came to speak to the Senate about Shared Governance and the changes to the Shared Governance document. Dr. Richardson expressed the views that he is not an expert regarding the history of Shared Governance at UNA and how it came to be. He spoke to us about the historic aspects of the document and the concerns voiced by Staff Senate. He feels that our concerns are legitimate and wants us to know that we have a friend in Shared Governance. He agrees that it is very important that Shared Governance truly be shared. Dr. Richardson then spoke about staff representation. What is it? Why does it exist? Shared Governance is not meant to be equal representation. It's supposed to be for leverage. Faculty can offer the protection of tenure where staff cannot. There have been times in the past where a staff member, in a position as chair of a committee, has been pressured by the University. Dr. Richardson asks us to please remember why Shared Governance was created. It was born out of a dictatorial President. When the original document was drafted, there was an equal representation of both faculty and staff. Staff can be pressured where tenured faculty cannot. Staff may vote in fear of position. There are places that need work, but we need to stay away from equal representation. Shared Governance was set up so that staff voices can be heard but also that we will not have to fear reprisal. Dr. Richardson has asked all chairs to review the membership of their committees with an eye on staff representation, the charge of the committee, and the line of reporting. The next president that comes along may not be like President Cale and the measures that were taken during the last administration need to remain in place for future administrations. Kevin Jacques voiced concerns that the Shared Governance document does not address the tenure status for the Shared Governance Chair and that having a non-tenured faculty member is the same as having a staff member. We discussed and decided to table the discussion and talk to constituents.

V. Old Business

Email Policy: A memo was sent to Priscilla Holland and Dr. Thornell. They have forwarded to the Executive Committee. We are waiting to hear from the EC.

Smoking Policy: Jennifer will draft a memo and send out to Staff Senate before forwarding. Dr. Statom is trying to figure out how to bring this information up to the Faculty Senate. They are also waiting to see what the city is doing with their new smoking policy. We will move forward with our proposal.

VI. New Business

Discussion of the “new” University Police department and their schedules. A report was made that some have tried to contact the University Police department at or around 4:00 p.m. and received no response. Kevin stated that officers are moving to 12 hour shifts and another member stated that the administrative staff are moving to four 10-hour shifts.

Compensation Ladder Review Update – The committee has recommended that Administrative Secretary titles be changed to Administrative Assistant and Academic Secretary titles be changed to Academic Assistant. A memo has been or will be sent to Renee Vandiver regarding these changes.

Professional Development Workshop – Joan Smith reported that Catherine White did not get the memo to her in time for the meeting. Dr. Medders thinks that he can find us some funds for these workshops. Joan will update at the next meeting.

Staff Recognition – Jennifer typed up a memo regarding the Employee of the Semester Award and handed out to all. She explained the memo and stated that we should get started on this by January. A memo will be drafted, sent to Staff Senate for approval, and then forwarded to the correct Shared Governance committee for approval.

Commencement Policy – The Academic and Student Affairs Committee sent an email to Jennifer who forwarded to Staff Senate. This committee agreed that none should be allowed to present at commencement other than the President and Board of Trustees. The committee asked that Staff Senate recommend the policy change to the President. A memo will be drafted, sent to Staff Senate for approval, and then forwarded to the President for approval.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 by Jennifer Smith. The next general meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2009 in the Wesleyan Hall Conference Room.

Minutes submitted by: Kari-Kay Harp, Secretary

Minutes submitted to: Jennifer Smith, President