

STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2009

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order at 10:01 on September 14, 2009 in Wesleyan Hall Conference Room by Jennifer Smith.

Present:

Present Members were: Jennifer Smith, Kari-Kay Harp, Chris Horn, Pam Trimble, Kevin Jacques, Brad Peeden, Joan Smith, Debbie Thornton as proxy for Pam Osborn, Steve Burnett, George Sherrill, Chuck Fadell, Jim Eubanks, Sara Huntley, and Ethan Humphres.

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

Jennifer Smith attended the Board of Trustees' meeting. She reported that there may be additional budget cuts in the upcoming months. Jennifer also reported that the Department of Public Safety's name has been officially changed to the University Police.

Jennifer reported that the Executive Committee of Staff Senate met with the President. The Executive Committee spoke with the President regarding several topics/goals of Staff Senate for the upcoming year. The first topic mentioned was the faculty/staff usage of the Student Recreation Center. The President expressed concern regarding the peak times of usage for the students because he doesn't want the faculty/staff to impose. Jim Eubanks expressed that peak usage time for students seems to be between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. and that Mr. Shields will propose some contract guidelines for faculty/staff that are interested in SRC membership. There was some talk regarding Faculty/Staff wellness being done in the SRC and Kevin Jacques and Jim Eubanks both had reservations concerning liability of the university.

The second topic the Executive Committee discussed with the President was an update on the compensation ladder project. Jennifer passed around a memo regarding compensation ladder committee members. Brad Peeden expressed concern that the Physical Plant did not have representation on the committee. Jennifer agreed to speak with Catherine regarding this matter.

Item three discussed with the President was the smoking policy. The President said that he would not be opposed to barriers or signage but also would never support a no smoking policy on campus. Faculty Senate will discuss and take measurements from doorways to ashtrays and report. Kevin Jacques suggested reporting student violations of the smoking policy to Kim Greenway. There would still have to be discussion regarding monitoring of faculty/staff/visitors in violation of the policy.

Item four was staff recognition. President Cale supports the ideas we proposed for staff recognition. Discussion was made about maybe having a staff employee of the month or quarter. All agreed that a quarterly recognition would be easier to obtain. The President also supported the idea of a sign for parking for the employee of the quarter.

Item five was late registration for employees. Staff Senate will draft a recommendation and President Cale will take to the Executive Council. He believes that the Faculty Senate will not be on board with removing the late registration requirement for employee tuition remission.

Item six discussed regarded the Graduate Assistant Policy & Remission. The President's thoughts regarding this policy is that you are either here to work or here for school. He supports the policy as is.

Item seven was the commencement policy. President does not like the current commencement policy that we have. He took the issue to the Executive Council who has forwarded the issue to the Academic Affairs Committee. President wants the policy open to all or none. Jennifer will meet with Crescente Figueroa, chair of the Academic Affairs committee and will have news to report by November 1.

Item eight discussed was the Purple Goes Green initiative. This initiative would be a greening of sorts for the campus including going online with more forms and recycling on campus. Faculty and Staff Senates will collaborate with student Scotty Rainwater regarding the recycling portion. Staff Senate will continue to work on this. The city of Florence is on board, but UNA is required by state law to recycle a certain amount. More work is required on this issue.

Item nine discussed was the Faculty/Staff Email and Classifieds issue. President Cale dislikes the current state of the faculty/staff email and the way that it is used for business not related to UNA. Priscilla Holland and Dr. Thornell will take this issue to the Executive Council. Staff Senate will send a memo to Priscilla to start the issue in motion. Faculty senate supports this issue.

IV. Shared Governance Committee Reports

An issue was discussed regarding staff representation on committees and that only faculty can chair Shared Governance. It is the thought that the reasoning behind faculty as chair of Shared Governance is because they hold tenure and cannot be terminated. A staff member may have issue, as chair, speaking about certain issues because they could worry about being terminated. This information was given to Jennifer from Terry Richardson. Dr. Richardson will attend our next meeting to discuss issues further.

V. Old Business

Professional Development: Joan Smith has been working with Catherine White and Continuing Studies to line up a speaker for the "kick-off" event for the Professional Development Series. Joan stated that her ideas for professional development would involve 3-4 programs per year; workshops for different topics, etc. Continuing Studies has a motivational speaker that will be coming soon and we could piggyback with them and get a reduced rate to do the kick-off event. Most in staff senate agree that the timing is not right to ask for the money. We will send a memo stating that we are still working on this item although we agree that to ask for the money at this time would not be right.

VI. New Business

Terry Richardson, chair of Shared Governance, would like for the Staff Senate President to be on the Shared Governance committee by position. Dr. Richardson will discuss this and previously mentioned issues at the meeting next month.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 by Jennifer Smith. The next general meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on October 12, 2009 in the Wesleyan Hall Conference Room.

Minutes submitted by: Kari-Kay Harp, Secretary

Minutes submitted to: Jennifer Smith, President