

STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2010

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order at 10:00 on March 15, 2010 in Wesleyan Hall Conference Room by Jennifer Smith.

Present:

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as corrected. Corrections Noted: Instead of "A presidential search process has been put in place", the minutes should read: "Since no formal presidential search process has been in place at UNA, the Board of Trustees have now formalized that process to meet future needs."

The sentence "Mr. Horn stated that they are looking to follow the state set of general guidelines but that the state guidelines are broad" should read as follows: "Mr. Horn stated that they are looking to follow the State of Alabama's set of general guidelines but that the state guidelines are broad."

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

III. Staff Senate President's Report

None.

IV. Shared Governance Committee Reports

None.

V. Old Business

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee made a final recommendation, voted, and approved the Staff Senate's recommendation regarding the Commencement Policy. The policy is now in Dr. Thornell's hands. Kevin asked if Dr. Thornell can veto the recommendation. Jennifer stated that according to Shared Governance procedures he would have to call a meeting to veto a recommendation.

The smoking policy is in the hands of the Faculty/Staff Welfare Committee and a memo will be coming soon.

The SRC policy regarding faculty/staff reduced fees is temporarily delayed. This item will be going before the Board of Trustees in June. The delay comes from the examination of the current fee structure and where the Faculty/Staff fees would be placed. Jim Eubanks brought up the question of UNA only paying for those that

actually use the SRC. Jim also says that the half-fee or the free fee is still open for discussion. It was decided that a survey to all faculty/staff would actually benefit this item of business. The draft questions discussed for the survey are as follows: 1) Would you use the SRC if the membership was free? 2) Would you use the SRC if the membership fee was ½ of the current fee? 3) Would you use the SRC if the membership fee was ¼ of the current fee? 4) How many times per month would you use the SRC? 5) Would you be willing to pay extra for personal training services?

Jennifer emailed Regina regarding an update on the Staff Recognition Policy. Regina stated that the policy went before the EC and that there were some questions regarding the equality to Faculty awards and the money for the professional development portion of the policy. We will work out any kinks before implementation of the policy. Jennifer, Chris, and Kari-Kay have a meeting with President Cale on March 29 to discuss this item. A statement was made that we should develop some other means of “rewards” than just money for professional development. Some employees may not have professional development opportunities or may be unable to attend those offered due to their work schedules (those who work at night). Ideas discussed were meal plan equivalency or dining dollars, annual leave, etc. We will also need to discuss a time limit. These items will be discussed at the next meeting after the Staff Senate Executive Committee meets with President Cale.

A statement was made regarding parking on campus. At this time, a decision is being made as to whether or not a paycheck can be docked for parking tickets. This policy is slated to go into effect next semester. A decision was made earlier this year that Faculty/Staff can park in any lines without being fined, however this policy change was not communicated to students. The students have now created a Facebook group regarding Faculty/Staff parking in student parking and have begun to post pictures of non-student cars parked in student parking lots.

VI. New Business

Transfer Student Policy – This policy was approved by the EC on 01/11/2010, before the new Shared Governance process was put in place. The policy will be emailed to all members. This policy is common among other universities and deals with transfer students providing a disciplinary waiver from the college(s) from which they are transferring.

Staff Senate Elections – Jim Eubanks and Ethan Humphres were recommended for Vice President of Staff Senate. A secret ballot election was held and Ethan Humphres was elected as the Vice President for Staff Senate for the upcoming year. A Secretary for Staff Senate will be elected when the new members are brought in for the next year as no current members wish to be Secretary. All current members whose terms are expiring were asked if they wished to be nominated for a second term. The answers were as follows:

Jennifer Smith – No

Steve Burnett – Yes

Kevin Jacques – No

Pam Osborn – Email to ask

Joan Smith – Yes

James Burton – Yes

In discussion of the senators whose term ends this year, Joan Smith stated that she wished to serve again for another term since the current term is her first. Kevin Jacques pointed out that she can be nominated, by herself or someone in her constituency group, to serve for another term, but that her constituency group must vote to approve her nomination and place her in another term as a senator. Joan also recommended Susan Freeman as a candidate for Staff Senate. It was decided that an email will be sent to address Staff Senate nominations and any nominations will be made through email at that time.

Sodexo Committee – Jim Eubanks, Kevin Jacques, Ethan Humphres, and Kari-Kay Harp attended the campus meeting with Sodexo. None of the Staff Senate members that attended were impressed with the meeting.

Items suggested by Staff Senate members were the availability of meal plan usage in the GUC, menus for the GUC meals being placed online, and that Sodexo listen to our comments/suggestions and use them to their advantage before they are up for contract renewal again.

Staff Vacancies on Shared Governance Committees – Nominations were made for upcoming terms on Shared Governance Committees. The approved nominations are attached.

VIII. Announcements

None.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 by Jennifer Smith. The next general meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on February 8, 2010 in the Wesleyan Hall Conference Room.

Minutes submitted by: Kari-Kay Harp, Secretary

Minutes submitted to: Jennifer Smith, President