**Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Monday August 8, 2011**

**Raburn Conference Room**

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order at 10:04 am on August 8, 2011. The meeting was conducted in the Raburn Conference Room.

Members Present Were: Ethan Humphres, Martha Frances Graham, Keith Fields, Louise Huddleston, Randall Phifer, George Sherrill, Melissa Thornton, and Cindy Wood.

Proxies: Bob Freeman for Susan Freeman, Nikki Yarber for Amanda Sharp, and Glenda Richey for Jim Eubanks.

Excused Absence: Peggy Wingo and Melody Stewart were at a department-wide required meeting.

Absent: James Burton

1. **Approval of Minutes from the July 11th meeting.**

All present accepted and approved the minutes as with one minor sentence change. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Louise Huddleston and seconded by Glenda Richey. Motion passed.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

All present accepted the agenda as presented. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Bob Freeman and seconded by Keith Fields. Motion passed.

1. **Reports**
   1. No reports were given.
2. **Discussion**
   1. Catherine White from Human Resources and Tom Corrum from Blue Cross Blue Shield came to discuss our current insurance policies.
   2. We can save money on our claims by using Alabama hospitals when possible. This is because it costs BCBS more when they have to pay an out of state hospital. BCBS is able to pay a discounted rate to hospitals in Alabama because they are all in BCBS network.
   3. Our premiums go up because our premiums are not covering our claims.
   4. BCBS website has tools that will help people find ways to get healthier and learn more about their policies.
3. **Unfinished Business**
   1. 2009-2010 goals- the staff recognition information was tabled until the committee could meet once school got back in session.
   2. 2010-2011 goals- A 3% raise was voted on by the Board to take effect on October 1st. Starting on October 1st we will also have to put 2.25% more into the retirement system.
   3. Salary progress- HR has been given a verbal yes that the money will be there to begin to bring people up to the midpoints. It is being asked that this money become a permanent part of the budget to continue to bring staff up to their midpoints. This issue should be voted on at the September board meeting.
4. **New Business**
   1. We will need to take the four names that we submitted for the institutional effectiveness committee and pick two. This will be conducted via e-business.
   2. Student Financial Services committee Glenda Richey said she would continue on this committee.
   3. Goals- we want to consider bringing two professional development opportunities for staff to campus each year. Motion was made by Cindy Wood to add this as a goal and seconded by Randal Phifer. All approved.
5. **Announcements**
   1. We will do our picture for the website when the diorama does their pictures. When they announce the times we will set up a time for our picture that works for everyone.
   2. Future 2011 Meeting Dates

September 12, 2011

October 10, 2011

November 14, 2011

December 12, 2011

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Frances Graham