**The Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Monday June 16, 2014**

**Raburn Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on June 16, 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, Peggy Wingo, Haley Brink, Janet Jones, Molly Vaughn, Susan Hughes, Debbie Thornton (proxy for Paula Hailey), George Sherrill, and Thomas Tidmore

**Absent:** Paula Hailey

**III. Approval of Minutes from the May 15th Meeting**

Ms. Haley Brink made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Randall Phifer seconded. All present and approved the minutes as presented.

**IV. Approval of Agenda for the June 16th Meeting**

Ms. Peggy Wingo made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Susan Hughes seconded. All present and approved the agenda as presented.

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

Ms. Melissa Thornton informed the senators that the staff/faculty letter addressing cost of living increases was given to the Board of Trustees, and has received at least one letter of thanks from a Board member and other positive feedback.

Board meeting topics:

* The university is implementing a new policy that will require first-time, full-time freshmen to live in a campus residence hall.
* The completion of the new dorms will provide 750 beds
* The Board of Trustees approved an $11 per credit hour tuition increase for the coming year. The increase is $2 less than what President Cale originally proposed. President Cale had sought a $13 per hour increase to help secure a 3% cost of living raise for staff/faculty

New Senate Representatives:

Melissa Thornton – Academic Affairs

Jimmy Waddell – Student Affairs

Anita Holcombe – Business and Financial Affairs

Russ Wilson – Business and Financial Affairs

Jerrod Russell – Academic Affairs

Tyler Unsicker – President’s Area

Haley Brink – Advancement

Kelly Ford – Student Affairs

Janet Jones – Academic Affairs

Molly Vaughn – Academic Affairs

Susan Hughes – Academic Affairs

Paula Hailey – Academic Affairs

Thomas Tidmore – Business and Financial Affairs

George Sherrill – Business and Financial Affairs

Salena Denton – Business and Financial Affairs

The Board of Trustees affirmed that Dr. John Thornell will serve as Interim President effective July 1. Dr. Thomas Calhoun will serve in an interim role as Chief Academic Officer.

**VI. Shared Governance Committee Reports**

No updates to report.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

Ms. Melissa Thornton updated senators on Staff Attitudes Survey. Some majors concerns addressed in the survey were insurance and cost of living raises. There were a total of 221 responses this year from Staff Attitudes Survey compared to 238 responses last year reported.

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

Senators discussed concerns regarding the amount of budget that will be approved for the use of staff midpoint raises. Expectations were $150,000, but only $100,000 may be approved. There were discussions regarding Mr. Jimmy Waddell along with Ms. Catherine White requesting a meeting with Dr. Thornell to discuss the importance of this much needed increase in funds for staff midpoint allocations.

A Staff Attitudes Survey committee meeting with Ms. Melissa Thornton, Ms. Haley Brink, Ms. Molly Vaughn, and Ms. Anita Holcombe is to be scheduled in the near future to discuss the top five issues of the survey results.

Mr. Jimmy Waddell gave a special thanks to Ms. Melissa Thornton for an extraordinary job as Staff Senate President. He praised the Staff Senate’s accomplishment under her leadership. The thanks were unanimous and demonstrated by a round of applause.

**X. Announcements**

Mr. Jimmy Waddell announced there would be no meeting in July. The next meeting will be Monday, August 11th, 2014.

**XI. Adjournment**

Ms. Molly Vaughn made a motion to adjourn meeting. Ms. Anita Holcombe seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Holcombe