**The Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday January 21, 2015**

**Raburn Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 2015 by President Jimmy Waddell in the Raburn Conference Room.

**II. Introduction of Interim Chief Parker**

Mr. David Shields, VP of Student Affairs, introduced Mr. Mark Parker as the University’s new Interim Chief of Police. Chief Parker said he was here to keep things running smoothly, and that he doesn’t plan to make any significant changes unless circumstances would warrant action. He invited questions, and said he was available any time.

**III. Introduction of Proxies and Roll Call**

Members present were Jimmy Waddell, Molly Vaughn, Anita Holcombe, Kelly Ford, Melissa Thornton, Janet Jones, Tyler Unsicker, Bishop Alexander (Proxy for Susan Hughes), Thomas Tidmore, George Sherrill, Russ Wilson, Paula Hailey, Jarrod Russell, and Salena Denton

**Absent:** Haley Brink and Susan Hughes

**IV. Approval of Minutes for the November 10th Meeting**

Ms. Peggy Wingo made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Tyler Unsicker seconded. All present and approved the minutes as presented.

**V. Approval of Agenda for January 21st Meeting**

Dr. Molly Vaughn made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Anita Holcombe seconded. All present and approved the agenda as presented.

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

No updates

**VII. Shared Governance Committee Report**

President Jimmy Waddell reported:

I. Discussions on the formation of safety and emergency preparedness committee

II. Discussions on the removal of the Faculty/Staff salary schedule from the faculty handbook

III. Discussions on revision of the academic honesty policy

IV. Discussions on transfer students taking online classes with/without completing online forms

V. Discussions on the proposal submitted by Staff Senate to allow a staff member to chair committee. The SGEC tabled the proposal request at the present time to allow President Jimmy Waddell to receive the absolute approval from the Staff Senate to move forward with this proposal. The issue of concern was in the past, a former president threatened a lawsuit over things discussed. Since Staff are at- will employees – do we want to be placed in a similar situation? President Jimmy Waddell agrees that the option should be there – if we are to maintain equality across campus.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

A. Wellness Program - Dr. Molly Vaughn reported that the GUC atrium has been booked for February 11th for the wellness event. At the present time there are 14 vendors expected to be present at the event. A future meeting is scheduled to prepare a packet to distribute to the vendors.

B. President Jimmy Waddell introduced Ms. Darlene Townsend, the chair of the Shared Governance Committee to speak to the Staff Senate regarding the concerns of the Shared Governance Committee regarding the proposal submitted by the Staff Senate that would allow a staff member to chair this committee. Ms. Townsend reported that there were many favorable comments from the committee, but there were some concerns. One concern was that faculty members that serve on the committee are required to be tenure. Whereas, all staff employees are at- will employees. This concern might be an issue if it was a tough time in the administration.

There are also discussions regarding adding an additional staff member to this committee.

C. President Jimmy Waddell has coordinated a salary midpoint funding committee that consists of Ms. Kelly Ford, Dr. Molly Vaughn, Ms. Salena Denton, and Ms. Melissa Thornton. An outline has been prepared to help assist in reaching the goal of $150,000 to be allocated toward midpoint funding. President Jimmy Waddell reported that he is to meet with Ms. Catherine White and ask that she provide all the data with various scenarios on how to get staff to midpoint. The preparation of a questionnaire is being discussed to help determine the needs. A future meeting is scheduled.

**IX. New Business**

President Jimmy Waddell reported that President Thornell has made a decision that the Department of Housing now falls under Business and Financial Affairs on the organizational chart. This department would fall under facilities and will be renamed at a future date and will report to Mr. Michael Gautney. All custodial services will reside under the Department of Housing.

President Jimmy Waddell has requested that a meeting be scheduled to begin planning the Staff Attitude Survey. Any revisions are welcomed.

**X. Discussions**

There were no additional discussions.

**XI. Announcements**

President Jimmy Waddell announced that the next Staff Senate meeting will be February 9th, 2015. Mr. Russ Wilson made a motion to adjourn meeting. Ms. Anita Holcombe seconded. All present and approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Holcombe