

Staff Senate
February 12, 2018 10:00 A.M.
GUC 200
Minutes of the Meeting

- I. Call meeting to order – Senate President, Jarrod Russell, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Ms. Catherine White and Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan (Consensual Relationships Policy). Mr. Waddell voiced his concern that the proposed policy is too loose and needs stricter enforcement and that Human Resources needs to administer the policy for the whole campus. Ms. Fite-Morgan stated that the policy provides protection for faculty and staff. The policy was written based on other universities and the current law. It prohibits all relationships between employees, unless it is already in effect. Human Resources will investigate any allegations of relationships. Mr. Waddell would like the language to reflect that there will be a preliminary investigation. Ms. White agreed to add the language.

Ms. Fite-Morgan also advised the Senate regarding the Travel Policy. If a complaint is made against an employee the University is obligated to investigate. If the complaint is valid, faculty and staff are not covered by the University's insurance. The best policy is to insure that faculty/staff and students do not sleep in the same room. If students violate policy while traveling, it needs to be reported to Student Affairs as soon as faculty/staff are made aware of the violation.

Before any policy can be changed, it has to be run by Ms. Fite-Morgan in the legal office.

- III. Members present and comprising a quorum were, Kyriel Thigpen for Bishop Alexander, Caleb Banks, Laura Beasley, Melissa Bolton, Gigi Broadway, Bobby Champagne, Ashley Christman, Mitch Coffman, Salena Denton, Ginger Gatlin, Kevin Jacques, Janet Jones, Allison Mays, LaNita Riant, Jarrod Russell, Regina Sherrill, Tiffany Simmons, Amy Thompson, Jimmy Waddell, and Christy Waters.
- IV. Approval of minutes – Ms. Bolton made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2017 meeting as printed. Mr. Banks seconded and the motion carried.
- V. Approval of agenda – Ms. Broadway made a motion to approve the agenda for the February 12, 2018 meeting as printed. Mr. Banks seconded and the motion carried.
- VI. Staff Senate President's report – President Russell reported that Mr. Evan Thornton came to the SGEC meeting regarding revamping tuition remission for employees and dependents to be more beneficial to the employees. Mr. Banks asked if the policy could be clarified as to number of hours versus number of classes. The benefit may also include a waiver of certain course fees.

President Russell noted that the University has moved to a tiered schedule for health insurance.

The travel policy has gone back to Tammy Jacques in Student Affairs to re-word.

Dr. Alexander requested that the calendar change for Thanksgiving week be removed for consideration until after the 5 year SACS review. It was not voted on by faculty senate.

The SGEC Open Forum will be held at the end of the month. All are invited to attend.

VII. Unfinished business

- a. Revised version on Children/Personal Visitors in the Workplace Policy – Mr. Banks revised the language of the policy to include the wording “personal visitor”. Mr. Russell will send it to Ms. Fite-Morgan to review.
- b. Update from Distinguished Staff Employee of the Year committee – Ms. Bolton reported that the committee met. They proposed 5 awards, but were told that 3 were approved. This year may only be one, depending on the nominations. Two more people are needed on the committee. Mr. Coffman and Mr. Champagne agreed to serve on this committee.

VIII. New business

- a. Wellness Day 2018 – Bishop Alexander will be planning, with the help of HPER. Jackie Allen of HPER will be asked to help as well.
- b. Project 208 – this is the initiative to help rectify the funding deficit from the State. All are asked to contact their legislators regarding this issue.

IX. Discussions – the naming ceremony for the Commons will be held on March 14 at 5:00 p.m.

X. Announcements

- a. Next meeting – March 12 at 10 a.m. in GUC 200
- b. Light the Fountain – March 14 at 7:00 p.m.

XI. Adjournment – Mr. Banks made a motion to dismiss. Ms. Bolton seconded and the Senate adjourned at 10:51 a.m.