

**Arkansas State University
Staff Senate Meeting
April 19, 2006**

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met Wednesday, April 19, 2006, in the Dean B. Ellis Library Boardroom on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. Mr. Victor Hill, President of the Staff Senate, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. In attendance:

Lesley Bauders – present
Tony Bittle – present
Margaret Brewer - present
Carol Byrd – present
Barbara Coker – present
Laura Cremeens – present
Patrick Dixon – present
Ann Ford – present
Jimmy Griffin – present
Jeff Gulley – present
Victor Hill – present
Toni Holt - present

Rhonda Keith – present
Donna Kirksey – present
Jerrod Lockhart – present
Randy Martin - present
Dena May – present
Terry Merriweather – present
Don Neldon – present
Carolyn Reece – present
Mia Sheppard-Taylor – present
Natalie Turney – present
Neal Vickers – present
Evelyn Weatherford (Jill Self, proxy)

Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

Treasury Report

Senator Ann Ford, treasurer, distributed a one-page report of Staff Senate account balances as of March 31, 2006. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

New Business

Wellness program update – Chris Enger, Wellness Program Coordinator, reported on ASU's current status in the Arkansas Fitness Challenge. He said he hoped to have an update soon on the Healthy Employee Lifestyle incentive program. He reported on continuing wellness classes available free of charge to all ASU employees. Questions or comments about the wellness program may be directed to Chris at cenger@astate.edu, 972-3974.

Banner update – Margaret Watson, Banner Project Director, provided an update on the Banner implementation process which, she noted, is on schedule with relative few problems to

date. She added that staff training will be made available as the different modules go live.

University Planning Committee update – President Hill reviewed some of the major points discussed in the recent UPC meetings, including the proposal to construct and operate a childcare facility on the ASU campus, the proposed minimum wage increase and salary increases for the coming year.

Holiday vacation vote – President Hill called for a vote on the holiday option preferred by employees. Senators were asked to seek input from those in their respective EEO categories and provide a count of the votes. The results were:

Option 1 (no mandatory vacation) – 118

Option 2 (4 days mandatory vacation) – 263

Option 3 (2 days mandatory vacation) – 81

Based upon the majority vote, Staff Senate will recommend to Human Resources that Option 2 be implemented for holiday vacation in December. This option would allow employees to be off from December 18 through January 1.

Distinguished Performance Awards update – Senator Freeman reminded everyone that the Distinguished Performance Awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 2 at 2 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

Employee Picnic – Senator Ford reminded everyone of the employee picnic scheduled for May 17, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Pavilion. She asked for volunteers to bring desserts for the bake sale.

Recognition of outgoing senators/Welcome new senators – President Hill recognized and thanked senators whose three-year terms end this month – Tony Bittle, Barbara Coker, Ann Ford, Jeff Gulley, Victor Hill and Carolyn Reece. New senators are Joyce Coleman, Tami Freeman, L.C. Kennedy, Jerry Sailor, Brandi Thompson and Vicki Walker.

Staff Senate retreat – President Hill proposed two dates for the upcoming retreat – June 15 and June 22. He asked senators to email him their preference. All will be notified when a

date is confirmed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Submitted by
Laura Cremeens