

Arkansas State University
Staff Senate Meeting
April 18, 2007

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, in the Dean B. Ellis Library Board Room on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. President Laura Cremeens called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. In attendance:

Lesley Bauders – present
Margaret Brewer – present
Steve Brown – present
Carol Byrd – present
Joycelyn Coleman – present
Laura Cremeens – present
Patrick Dixon – present
Tami Freeman – present
Vanita Harvey – present
Toni Holt – present
Jennifer Jasinski – present
Debbie Jernigan – present
Rhonda Keith – present

L. C. Kennedy – present
Donna Kirksey – absent
Jerrod Lockhart - absent
Randy Martin - present
Dena May – present
Terry Merriweather – present
Don Neldon – present
Jerry Sailor – present
Mia Sheppard-Taylor – present
Brandi Thompson – present
Natalie Turney – absent
Vicki Walker – present
Evelyn Weatherford - present

Past President:
Victor Hill – present

Minutes:

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Treasury Report:

Senator Rhonda Keith, treasurer, distributed a one-page report on Staff Senate account balances as of March 31, 2007. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

New Business:

President Cremeens asked the senators to temporarily suspend the by-laws for election of officers. Senator Sailor made a motion to suspend the by-laws for the election of new officers, Senator Keith seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

The following senators were elected by majority vote of senators present which constituted a quorum:

President – Randy Martin

Vice President – Joycelyn Coleman

Secretary – Vicki Walker

Treasurer – Tami Freeman

Vice President for Communication – Laura Cremeens

Other Business:

President Cremeens recognized and thanked senators whose three-year terms end this month – Margaret Brewer, Toni Holt, Donna Kirksey, Jerrod Lockhart, Don Neldon and Evelyn Weatherford. New senators are Deanna Barton, Sandra Bramblett, Kenneth Burrow, Phareta Calkin, John Carvell, Kay Childs, Ellena Cox, Rosemary Freer, Helen McCoy, Elaine Poynter, Gail Rasberry and Tim Weaver.

Chris Enger, Wellness Program Coordinator, reported that the Arkansas Fitness Challenge at ASU is going well. Eighty percent of employees have completed at least 10 days of exercise and 40% have completed at least 20 days. He reminded everyone that on April 24 at noon a Lunch and Learn session will be held in the Chickasaw Building and on April 20 at 1:00 p.m. a presentation by his graduate assistants on “Fact and Fiction about Fun” will be held in the HPESS building in Room 245. He said the wellness calendar for summer fitness classes is available on the wellness website.

Chris stated that policy on release time from work for exercise is currently found only on the wellness website. Because it is a university-established policy, it should be added to the Staff Handbook. He will discuss this further with Human Resources staff to see about adding it to the handbook. He also stated that if any accidents or injuries were experienced by employees during exercise release time, they are not covered by workman's compensation. He said this needs to be

stated in the policy as well. Senator Weatherford made a motion to add an appropriate statement to the handbook. Senator Byrd seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Senator Keith gave an update on the proposal to reduce the membership fee for ASU employees at the fitness center located in the Student Union. Beginning June 1, 2007, the fee for employees will be as follows:

\$100 each for the fall and spring semesters

\$40 for both summer semesters

Payroll deduction is available at \$10 per pay period and can be tax sheltered.

Other Announcements:

Phareta Calkin, Staff Senate Picnic Committee Co-Chair, gave an update on the picnic festivities. The picnic will be held May 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the ASU Pavilion. Don Neldon has agreed to cook the hamburgers and hot dogs again this year. Announcements of the picnic will be placed on the ASU Digest and fliers will be sent to all employees. The committee decided this year not to have potato salad and if anyone had suggestions on silent auction donations to e-mail her or Terrie Rolland with the vendor name.

Senator Freeman announced the Distinguished Performance Awards ceremony would be held May 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union auditorium.

President Cremeens announced the Staff Senate retreat will be held June 22nd at 8:30 a.m. in the Student Union Mockingbird Room. Scheduled speakers are Steve Owens, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, Dr. Rick Stripling, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Robert Evans, Governmental Relations.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.