

Arkansas State University
Staff Senate Meeting
April 16, 2008

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, in the Dean B. Ellis Library Board Room on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. President Randy Martin called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. In attendance:

Sandra Bramblett – present
Carol Byrd – present
Phareta Calkin – present
Jon Carvell – proxy Mary Hurless
Kaye Childs – present
Jennifer Clack – absent
Shane Copeland – absent
Ellena Cox – proxy Toni Holt
Laura Cremeens – present
Patrick Dixon – present
Tami Freeman – absent
Rosemary Freer – present
Vanita Harvey – present
Debbie Jernigan – present
David Kenley – absent
L. C. Kennedy – present

Cameron Martin – present
Randy Martin – present
Dena Bolar Graves (May) – present
Helen McCoy – present
Terry Merriweather – present
Sharon Milligan – present
Elaine Poynter – present
Gail Rasberry – present
Jerry Sailor – present
Mia Sheppard-Taylor – present
Shawn Smee – present
Natalie Turney – absent
Jennifer Jasinski – absent
Vicki Walker – present
Randy West – present

Minutes:

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Treasury Report:

Senator Freeman was absent; no treasurer's report was given. Senator Cremeens announced that the treasurer's report would be sent by e-mail to all senators.

Wellness Program Update:

Chris Enger, Wellness Program Coordinator, gave an update on the wellness programs currently offered:

- *Blue and You Fitness Challenge* – ASU won the second round of competition with the lowest contestant dropout rate.
- To date, a total of 800 pounds has been lost by individuals and teams in the *Biggest Loser* competition.
- The *National Walk at Lunch Day* will be held on April 30 at 12 pm by the Student Union Fountain; more information will be placed on the ASU Digest.

Old Business:

Chris Enger, Picnic Committee Chair, announced that Sodexo has once again agreed to donate the hamburgers and hot dogs for the picnic. The committee is working on getting silent auction items. Chris asked each senator to e-mail their constituents on possible donations and for vendor contact information.

Senator Cremeens announced that quilt project has made \$450 in sales and the quilt will be placed in the picnic auction with a starting bid of \$200.

New Business:

President Martin welcomed new senators whose terms will start in May. He thanked departing senators for their hard work and dedication.

<u>Category:</u>	<u>New Senators:</u>	<u>Outgoing Senators:</u>
Executive Managerial -	Donna McMillin	Patrick Dixon
Non-Faculty Professional -	Tammy Fowler Janet Hardin Victor Hill Diana Corder	Shane Copeland Dena Bolar-Graves (May) Carol Byrd
Secretarial/Clerical -	Regina Gilbert Peggy Hunt	Laura Cremeens Natalie Turney
Technical Professional -	Cindy Bode	Randy Martin
Service/Maintenance		Mia Sheppard-Taylor

President Martin announced that according to the Staff Senate By-Laws, officer elections are supposed to take place at the May meeting. A motion was made by Senator Merriweather to uphold the bylaws and hold officer elections at the May meeting, second by Senator Calkin, approved by majority vote.

Jennus Burton, Vice President of System Operations, gave a proposal on retirement vesting. Under the current retirement policy, employees are vested immediately upon hire. If an employee leaves within a three year period, the university has no way of recouping matching retirement benefits. Under the new proposal the university will initiate a partial repurchase program, which allows the university to recoup matching funds first if the employee leaves within a three year period. Also, the employee will not be fully vested until after 36 months of continuous employment or fulfillment of three nine-month contract periods. This will allow the university to establish a savings and grant the UPC committee access to relocate those funds as needed. A motion was made by Senator Sailor to accept the proposal as presented, second by Senator Byrd. Discussion followed after the motions were made and then retracted by Senator Sailor and Senator Byrd. A new motion was made by Senator Cremeens to accept the proposal with savings being directed back to benefits, second by Senator Freer, approved by majority vote.

Other Business:

President Martin announced that the Chancellor's Office is in the process of finalizing Shared Governance Committee appointments and that letters would be sent to each employee who will serve on the various committees.

President Martin gave a budget update from UPC. Chancellor Potts announced two options that would be presented to the board for evaluation on employee merit increases. Option 1 is to eliminate all raises for classified and non-classified employees. Option 2 is to reinstate the two percent COLA granted by the State of Arkansas, no labor market increases for grades 17 and up, budget cuts in all areas in supplies and services, travel, and in consumption of energy provided that the forecast on enrollment stays the same and the tuition increase is implemented.

President Martin, on behalf of Senator Carvell, asked for volunteers to serve on the Stipend Committee. The following senators agreed to represent the following EEO categories:

Non-Faculty Professional	Elaine Poynter
Skilled Crafts	Randy West
Service Maintenance	Sharon Milligan

President Martin asked each senator to evaluate the need for the Staff Senate retreat held in June or to forgo the retreat and have the general assembly later in the semester. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.