

Arkansas State University
Staff Senate Meeting
July 19, 2006

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met on Wednesday, July 19, 2006, in the Dean B. Ellis Library Board Room on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. President Laura Cremeens called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. In attendance:

Lesley Bauders – proxy Sanoya Amienyi	Jerrod Lockhart – absent
Margaret Brewer – present	Randy Martin – present
Steve Brown – present	Dena May – proxy Carey Stallings
Carol Byrd – present	Terry Merriweather – proxy Stacy Somers
Joycelyn Coleman – present	Don Neldon – present
Laura Cremeens – present	Jerry Sailor – present
Patrick Dixon – present	Mia Sheppard-Taylor – present
Tami Freeman – present	Brandi Thompson – proxy Dana Wilkerson
Toni Holt – proxy Kathy Bacigalupo	Natalie Turney – present
Rhonda Keith – present	Neal Vickers – present
L. C. Kennedy – present	Vicki Walker – present
Donna Kirksey – present	Evelyn Weatherford – present

Departing Senators:
Victor Hill – present

Minutes:

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Treasury Report:

Senator Rhonda Keith, Treasurer, distributed a one-page report of Staff Senate account balances as of June 30, 2006. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. The University has given Staff Senate a new budget of \$2,375 for the 2006/2007 fiscal year. Senator Rhonda Keith made a motion for Santa's Tribe account information not to be included in the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Senator Tami Freeman. Discussion was open to the floor. Senator Randy Martin stated that Santa's Tribe information was previously added to the treasurer's report because no one knew about the new committee, and since it fell under the oversight of the

Staff Senate, this would provide all staff information on how funds were being spent. Senator Rhonda Keith stated that this report does not state how the money was being spent. Senator Vicki Walker, a member of Santa's Tribe stated she would be willing to give a short update of how funds were being spent quarterly. Senator Rhonda Keith made a motion on to have Senator Walker report on Santa's Tribe quarterly, Senator Margaret Brewer seconded, the motion passed by majority vote.

Other Business:

Chris Enger, Wellness Coordinator gave an update on the current employee fitness classes being offered. He also reported on ASU's finish in the Arkansas Fitness Challenge. He presented information on two new types of programs that ASU has been considering to increase participation by staff: H.E.L.P. (Healthy Employee Lifestyles Program) and the "Simply Well Program."

Lori Roach, Human Resources Director, stated that the pay plan study is currently in the stage of finalizing job descriptions and placing them in the appropriate occupation group. The next step will be to place these groups in the appropriate pay grade before the plan is presented to the Arkansas State Legislature by October.

Lori also talked about recent labor market increases. Employees in grades 3 through 16 were affected by the increase; if certain job positions/grades had a labor market rate, employees in those positions were first given the 3% raise mandated by the state. If an employee's salary still did not meet the labor market rate then their pay was increased to meet the labor market standard for their job position. She also indicated that supervisors had no input on whether or not the increases were given, and stated that not every position had a labor market rate.

Senator Rhonda Keith presented a proposal to reduce the membership fee for ASU employees at the fitness center located in the Student Union. Her report included membership

costs at local gyms and compared them to the current annual rate for the ASU fitness center. She also indicated that as of July 18th there were only six employee members and that a lower membership fee would likely encourage more staff members to join. Senator Neal Vickers made a motion to accept the proposal and pass it on the Fringe Benefits Committee, Senator Randy Martin seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Senator Neal Vickers stated that according to the Staff Senate Constitution, two part-time employees are to be elected to serve in one year positions on Staff Senate. These individuals may not be graduate assistants or work-study students. He obtained a list of all part-time employees from the Payroll Office and removed the names of all students, temporary employees, individuals no longer employed or those who have moved to full-time positions. He then contacted the remaining individuals to see if they would be willing to serve on the Senate. Senator Vickers also stated that the two senators would have a vote in committees on which they serve but are non-voting members of the Senate. Those willing to serve were announced and the floor was open for nominations. Senator Donna Kirksey nominated Debbie Jernigan and President Laura Cremeens nominated Vanita Harvey. No other nominations were made so the Senate voted on the two. Both nominees were elected by unanimous vote.

Senator Jerry Sailor expressed concern over the shared governance e-mail in which senators were asked to vote electronically. President Laura Cremeens explained why the Senate was asked to vote on this issue in such a manner. A lengthy discussion followed. Senator Sailor made a motion to call a special meeting when this type of issue arises and to not vote electronically, Senator Don Neldon seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Past President Victor Hill asked about getting a new picture of the Senators for the website. President Cremeens said she would check on setting up a date for the picture to be taken and will notify the Senators when it is confirmed.

Senator Randy Martin passed out a flier about "Kids Day Out," a community service event sponsored by the University Police Department, and asked that senators post them in their respective work areas.

President Cremeens reminded everyone that next month's meeting had been cancelled due to the start of the fall semester and asked that anyone having agenda items for the September meeting to please notify her as soon as possible.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.