

Arkansas State University
Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2008

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, in the Dean B. Ellis Library Board Room on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. President Shawn Smee called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and attendance was taken:

Natalie Ball – absent
Cindy Bode – present
Sandra Bramblett – present
Phareta Calkin – present
Jon Carvell – present
Kaye Childs – absent
Jennifer Clack – present
Diana Corder – present
Ellena Cox – present
Tammy Fowler– proxy Dena Bolar
Rosemary Freer – present
Regina Gilbert – present
Janet Hardin – present
Victor Hill – proxy Kali Brown
Peggy Hunt – present
Jennifer Jasinski – present

David Kenley – absent
Helen McCoy – present
Donna McMillin – present
Terry Merriweather – absent
Sharon Milligan – present
Elaine Poynter –present
Gail Raspberry – present
Jerry Sailor – present
Shawn Smee – present
Vicki Walker – present
Randy West – absent
Joyette White – present
Skilled Crafts – vacant (adding J.Brotemarkle)
Randy Martin – ExOfficio Pres.
Carol Barnhill – Parliamentarian

Agenda items were addressed as follows.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved without revision.

Treasury Report:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed at the meeting for review. Upon account balance review, Senator Carvell requested discussion regarding the Foundation Accounts, specifically, rationale of donations collected for the Educational Stipend deposited to the discretionary account and then transferred to the stipend fund upon selection of recipients. He also asked if the senate could obtain a "break-down" of stipend donations. Follow-up at the next meeting was planned.

Wellness Program Update:

Chris Enger, Wellness Program Coordinator, reported good participation levels in wellness programs, including the Healthy Activity Program and Fitness Challenge, however, the ASU Fitness Challenge team was "defeated" by the St. Bernard's team by 3%, and Enger reported plans to make changes to the promotion and increase participation to "get the trophy back for ASU" next year. Upcoming events reported were the fall Walk-tober and resumed Lunch-N-Learn sessions. Lunch-N-Learn program development would be determined by most requested topics, so suggestions were welcomed.

Old Business:

- Town Hall update – Senator McMillin, Committee Chair, reported progress in Town Hall planning, and was working with various units for scheduling, tentatively planning for the week of 22Sept, 2008.

New Business:

- Welcome new Senator – James D. Brotemarkle (Skilled Trades)
President Smee welcomed Senator Brotemarkle to the senate in the Skilled Trades category.
- Update on Exec. Committee with Dr. Potts
Members of the Executive Committee reported on issues discussed with Dr. Potts at the 14 July meeting, including concerns regarding difficulties of staff members with considerable commute distances, in lieu of rising fuel costs. Potts indicated a desire to consider any and all options that may be available to the university to help alleviate the burden, adding that discussion was already in progress with the local transit system to study the feasibility of a commuter bus option. He also reported that the previously considered flex-time work schedule was under discussion at the system level, but no decision had been made. Potts also expressed the desire to meet with the Executive Committee regularly, and suggested an every-other-month schedule unless issues arose in the interim.
- Vice President Election
President Smee announced that he would be leaving university employ, and resigned his seat as well as the office. Vice President Freer would assume the duties of the President immediately. President Freer thanked Smee for his service and proceeded to conduct an election for the office of Vice President. Volunteers were encouraged to express interest. Senator Bode self-nominated, seconded by Rasberry. Voting was unanimous in favor. It was noted that a vacancy was created in Non-Faculty Professional category, and replacement for vacancy would come from the results of the most recent election. Newly elected Vice President Bode would be in charge of specifics.

Other Business:

- No additional business was discussed.

Announcements and Reminders:

- Next meeting August 20, 2008
- Human Resources reminded the senate of their annual Benefits Fair, upcoming in October. The theme would be “fiesta” and two sessions were planned, one for retirees and one for current employees. Dates to be announced. Discussion ensued regarding the Staff Senate booth. Follow-up next meeting.
- Volunteer was requested to serve on Disability Services committee. Senator McCoy volunteered to serve as the Staff Senate representative for the committee.
- Carvell requested that senators distribute “feelers” to constituents regarding willingness to serve on the stipend committee. An email plea would be developed for distribution.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Rasberry
Secretary, Staff Senate