

**Arkansas State University  
Staff Senate Retreat  
June 17, 2005**

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met on Friday, June 17, 2005, in the Mockingbird Room of the Student Union on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. Mr. Victor Hill, President of the Staff Senate, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Senators present were:

Kim Johnson for Leslie Bauders	Rhonda Keith
Tony Bittle	Donna Kirksey
Margaret Brewer	Randy Martin
Carol Byrd	Dena May
Barbara Coker	Don Neldon
Laura Cremeens	Carolyn Reece
Patrick Dixon	Glenda Childs for Mia Taylor
Ann Ford	Natalie Turney
Jimmy Griffin	Betty Broadway for Evelyn Weatherford
Victor Hill	Vicki White
Toni Holt	

**Minutes**

Upon motion by Ann Ford, second by Tony Bittle, the minutes of May 18, 2005, were approved.

**Treasury Report**

Ann Ford, treasurer, stated Staff Senate account balances as of June 13, 2005:

University Accounts

E&G Account Number 201100	\$310.64
Agency Account – Santa's Tribe 901220	\$14,915.84

### Foundation Accounts

Staff Senate Discretionary Account	\$ 6,047.27
Santa's Tribe Discretionary Account	\$14,915.84

Upon motion by Patrick Dixon, second by Don Neldon, the treasury report was approved.

### **Administrator Reports and Updates:**

Administrators from the ASU-Jonesboro campus gave a brief overview of their respective divisions/departments, along with an update on current projects and a summary of future goals. Each answered questions following their presentation.

Susan Allen, Vice Chancellor for Research and Academic Affairs, outlined the organizational structure of her division, noting changes in college deans effective July 1. She gave background information on the establishment of the Arkansas Bioscience Institute and described ASU's role in it. She also explained the reason for some of the recent changes made at the HPESS building due to budget restructuring.

Dr. Les Wyatt, President, expressed appreciation to all staff for their contribution to the success of the university and its students. He commented on topics including the employee benefits program, plans to assist employees in providing care for children and/or aging parents, the proposed public transportation system, legislative decisions affecting ASU funding and proposed road construction to improve access to campus.

Steve Owens, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, described some of the work of his division, which includes fundraising, alumni relations and university communication/public relations. He thanked staff for their involvement and support of ASU demonstrated through their contribution of time, care and financial resources.

Rick Stripling, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said that as work continues on

the Student Union and Reng Center, plans are moving forward to relocate several offices in his division there to create a “solution center” for students. He also described some of the indicators for increased enrollment for the near future, which include increased scholarship and admissions applications,

Ed Kremers, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance, distributed a one-page document showing a campus map with construction projects in process or proposed, and gave a brief summary of progress. He gave an update on the Banner ERP project. Two components of the project, the finance and student services modules, are scheduled for use this fall. He also commented briefly about the recent legislation regarding sick leave pay to retiring classified employees and summer flex schedules.

Chris Enger, Wellness Director, reported on the results of the Arkansas Fitness Challenge between ASU and Bernards Regional Medical Center. He distributed a one-page document containing final statistics on the competition, along with a listing of current and upcoming wellness classes and activities. He also commented on the potential impact of Act 724 approved by the Arkansas General Assembly.

Carol Barnhill, Director of Procurement Services and Staff Senate parliamentarian, distributed a two-page document on parliamentary procedure. She asked senators to review the document to become familiar with proper procedures for conducting Senate meetings.

Lori Roach, Director of Human Resources, distributed a four-page document containing information on Compensation for Unused Sick Leave at Retirement for Classified Employees (policy number 07-21 in the ASU Policies and Procedures manual), Hardship Distribution From 403(b) Accumulations, and an Analysis of Preventive Care Costs for January 1 through March 31, 2005 at ASU. She also

distributed copies of the current ASU System Staff Handbook.

### **Committee Activity Updates:**

A report on recent activities of Staff Senate committees included:

Election Committee, Tony Bittle, chair – No activity to report. Chair will begin the process to replace Roger Lee who resigned his position as senator. Committee members for 2005-2006 are Patrick Dixon, Margaret Brewer, Jimmy Griffin, Randy Martin, Natalie Turney.

Recognition and Awards Committee, Tami Freeman, chair – No activity to report. Chair will notify secretary of committee membership.

Picnic Committee, Ann Ford, chair – Revenue for the 2005 picnic was approximately \$950 greater than last year. Committee membership for 2005-2006 will remain is unchanged from last year.

General Assembly Committee, Natalie Turney, chair – A staff general assembly will be scheduled for fall but a date has not yet been set. Chair will notify secretary of committee membership.

Educational Stipend Committee, Elaine Poynter, chair – Last year's program awarded five \$200 stipends – four to employees and one to a dependent. Preparations are being made for this year's application/award process. Chair will notify secretary of committee membership.

Communication and Promotions Committee, Tami Freeman, chair – Freeman proposed a redesign of the Staff Senate website and requested input/approval from the senate before proceeding with details for the project.

### **Other Business**

Tami Freeman proposed that Staff Senate take on a project to refurbish the Arch located in the quad. She distributed a one-page document containing photos and

artwork depicting the arch, to which she referred as she described the plan to restore the marker and add landscaping. Following a brief discussion, senators agreed that more information is needed before approval to proceed is granted.

With no further business, President Hill adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Laura Cremeens  
Staff Senate Secretary