

**STAFF SENATE MINUTES**  
**March 23, 2005**

Call to Order: 2 p.m.

Senators Attending: Carol Barnhill, Tony Bittle, Margaret Brewer, Mark Clark, Patrick Dixon, Carolyn Douglas, Ann Ford, Tami Freeman, Victor Hill, Toni Holt, Donna Kirksey, Jerrod Lockhart, Judy McCay, Don Neldon, Vic Nelson, Carolyn Reece and Evelyne Weatherford

Absent: Jeff Bailey, Barbara Coker, Dylan Fisher, Jeff Gulley and Roger Lee

Guests: Drew Daley, Chris Enger, Vicki Fletcher, Sharron Johnson, Sue Southard and Dr. J.W. Mason

The meeting was called to order by President Tami Freeman.

Carol Barnhill made a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Jerrod Lockhart seconded. Motion approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Ann Ford and was approved by the Senate.

Balances in accounts are as follows:

E & G	\$ 2335.62
Santa's Tribe	\$ 601.18
Staff Senate Discretionary	\$ 3412.38
Santa's Tribe Discretionary	\$14149.54

Senator Donna Kirksey reported that the Distinguished Service Award Ceremony is slated for 2 p.m. Thursday, April 21 in the auditorium of the Student Union. The dessert reception will begin at 1:30 in the Mockingbird Room which is adjacent to the auditorium. The Committee will meet tomorrow, March 24 to mail out ballots for the DSA and the Customer Service Award. More information will be forthcoming.

Senator Ford reminded everyone that the Faculty/Staff Picnic will be May 25 at the pavilion. Volunteers are still needed.

Vice-President Victor Hill announced that ballots have been mailed for the election of new senators. The deadline for them to be returned is Fri., March 23.

## SENATE MINUTES

Page 2

Dr. J.W. Mason, Associate Vice-President for Administration, addressed the Senate concerning bills before the legislature during the current session. Governor has signed the "Fat Bill" otherwise know as Act 724. This is being developed by the healthcare providers. Also, Senate Bill 168 that will allow classified employees to be paid for their unused sick leave when they retire is in the governor's lap to be signed. \$7500 is the maximum an employee can be paid for this.

To dispel the rumor concerning the administration doing away with the faculty/staff tuition discount Dr. Mason emphasized that the costs of fringe benefits which includes health insurance, disability insurance, long-term disability and the tuition discount are always considered when the new budget is being prepared. A decision on what, if any, benefit may be cut will not be known until ASU learns what we will be receiving from the legislature.

Senator Mark Clark inquired about the cost to ASU for employees and dependents presently taking classes. President Freeman stated she would obtain the information and email the figures to Staff Senate members.

Senator Vic Nelson asked Dr. Mason if salary savings would cover the costs of the faculty/staff tuition discount. He said he didn't know but that Dr. Wyatt is working on a solution in hopes of not having to cut any benefits.

President Freeman noted she had received a letter from a journalism student working on a story for a class project. The letter consisted of questions for the Staff Senate asking what does the Staff Senate do, our thoughts on the possibility of losing faculty/staff tuition benefits and other problems the Senate might encounter, etc. Senator Freeman asked members to look over it and e-mail their responses to her and she would compile them and send them to the student.

In other business, information was passed out concerning the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Everyone was encouraged to participate.

Chris Enger, Fitness Coordinator, reported that participants are still needed for the Arkansas Fitness Challenge. The deadline to sign up is Thurs., March 31.

Senator Carol Barnhill announced that there will be a Caregivers Forum on Mon., April 25 from 1-5 in the auditorium of the Student Union. A panel consisting of a lawyer, accountant, a representative from St. Bernards Behavioral Health and others, will be there to give information on being a caregiver. She encouraged everyone in the University community to attend.

## SENATE MINUTES

Page 3

President Freeman reminded everyone of the General Assembly that will be held Mon., April 4 at 1 p.m. in the auditorium of the Student Union.

Senator Don Nelson asked Dr. Mason if he was aware of any other department on campus having a disciplinary policy different from the one in the ASU Staff Handbook. Dr. Mason stated he was not aware of one, but promised he would look in to it.

With no more business the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. March 20 in the Dean B. Ellis Library Boardroom.