

**Arkansas State University  
Staff Senate Meeting  
October 19, 2005**

The Arkansas State University Staff Senate met Wednesday, October 19, 2005, in the Dean B. Ellis Library Boardroom on the ASU-Jonesboro campus. Mr. Tony Bittle, vice president of the Staff Senate, called the meeting to order at 1:59 p.m. In attendance:

Lesley Bauders – present	Rhonda Keith – absent
Tony Bittle – present	Donna Kirksey – present
Margaret Brewer - absent	Jarrold Lockhart – present
Carol Byrd – present	Randy Martin - present
Barbara Coker – present	Dena May – present
Laura Cremeens – present	Don Neldon – present
Patrick Dixon – present	Carolyn Reece – present
Ann Ford – present	Mia Sheppard-Taylor – present
Jimmy Griffin – present	Natalie Turney – present
Jeff Gulley – absent	Neal Vickers – present
Victor Hill – Cynthia Beason, proxy	Evelyn Weatherford – present
Toni Holt - present	Vicki White – present

**Minutes**

The minutes of the September 21 Staff Senate meeting were accepted as presented.

**Treasury Report**

Ann Ford, treasurer, distributed a one-page report of Staff Senate account balances as of October 18, 2005. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**New Business**

P-cards for Santa's Tribe – Lola Langley requested approval from the Senate to obtain P-cards for use by Santa's Tribe to facilitate speedy processing of items distributed during the December holiday season to aid recipients. Motion to approve request was made by Senator Freeman; Senator Ford seconded. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Wellness program update – Chris Enger, Wellness Program Coordinator, provided an update on a recently added flexibility ball exercise class. He reminded everyone of the upcoming employee benefits fair on Oct. 27. Questions or comments about the wellness program may be

directed to Chris at [cenger@astate.edu](mailto:cenger@astate.edu), 972-3974.

ASU Centennial celebration – Steve Watkins, Director of Development, presented an overview of plans being considered for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ASU. He provided a number of options for the Senate to participate in the celebration. He also talked briefly about a number of other projects to be undertaken by the university in relation to the celebration. Questions or comments about the Centennial celebration may be directed to Steve Watkins at [swatkins@astate.edu](mailto:swatkins@astate.edu), 972-3940.

Communications committee update – Tami Freeman informed the Senate of progress she had made to establish a committee for improving/increasing communication to ASU staff about important issues affecting them. She distributed a one-page document outlining the purpose and actions of the proposed committee. Questions or comments regarding the committee should be directed to Tami at [tfreeman@astate.edu](mailto:tfreeman@astate.edu), 972-2055.

Act 1015 – Lori Roach, Director of Human Resources, presented an overview of Act 1015 of the 85<sup>th</sup> General Assembly which mandates that a pay plan be conducted by the Arkansas Office of Personnel Management and the Bureau of Legislative Research. She distributed a three page document that included details on the study and a timeline for completion of the project. Questions or comments regarding the pay plan study may be addressed to Lori Roach at [lroach@astate.edu](mailto:lroach@astate.edu), 972-3454.

Fringe benefits update – Lori Roach also provided an update on the possibility of ASU switching from First Source to True Blue for access to a larger number of healthcare resources (including number of physicians, facilities, etc.) A decision on the proposed change will be made by administration soon and information will be provided to ASU employees before the fringe benefits fair on Oct. 27. Questions and comments regarding the change may be directed to the appropriate Human Resource representative for each division/college.

Other announcements – Senator Ford reported that Santa's Tribe recently provided a \$500 gift card to a Hurricane Katrina evacuee in Jonesboro who decided to remain here and is now employed

at ASU.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Submitted by  
Laura Cremeens