

**Staff Senate Meeting  
January 16, 2008**

<b>Attendees</b>			
	Zeke Aguilera		Renata Limmer
	Keshia Askew	X	Demetrice Mitchell
X	Dona Baker		Melanie Newby
	Kelvin Bee	X	Ray Pinner
X	Kevin Bennett		Sheila Ray
	Jackie Carlson		Rhonda Reynolds
X	Jamie Clay		Deborah Rice
X	Joanie Fletcher		Doris Ruddle
X	Claudia Ford	X	Ravi Seth
	Marcia Green		Jacqueline Siniard
	Annie Harris		Karen Smith
X	April Harris	X	Mary Beth Walker
X	Kristy Holland	X	David Williams
	Karla Hubbert		Nikki Willis
X	Barbara Lawson		

**List Proxies:**

Jamie Clay for Melanie Newby & Sheila Ray, Demetrice Mitchell for Renata Limmer, Kristy Holland for Zeke Aguilera, Ashley Kranz for April Harris, Kevin Bennett for Karen Smith.

**The meeting was called to order by Jamie Clay at 11:03 a.m.**

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

Minutes approved

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Angel Tree Report** – A breakdown of contributions and purchases was distributed to each Staff Senator.

**Faculty/Staff Recognition** recommendations have been presented to President Williams and he has done an initial review per Mary Beth Walker. President Williams is looking into several things, no decisions have been made at this time. He will bring recommendations back to the Staff Senate, and wishes to reiterate that the message we send is that the staff is much appreciated.

**Smoking Policy** - Jamie Clay will contact Faculty Senate and SGA regarding recommendations and policy guidelines regarding Smoking Policy.

**Committee Reports:**

**Benefits Committee:** Ravi Seth reported that he has sent short-term disability recommendations to Human Resources (Sandra Parton) and will request a written response from HR before the next Staff Senate meeting.

**Election Committee:** Plans to meet before next Staff Senate Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A Policy and Procedure Meeting convened following cancellation of classes on January 10, 2008 due to inclement/possibly dangerous weather. There were several complaints

that the university stayed open. Jamie Clay reported that there was concern voiced about employees who needed to leave to pick up children. (Employees were allowed to leave on personal time.) Claudia Ford stated that Student Affairs received several calls from local elementary schools and day care providers trying to get in touch with parents (UAH students) who were not responding to pick up their children. Dona Baker informed Staff Senate that Charger Central received calls inquiring as to why the Emergency Cell Notification System was not used. President Williams explained that a group (Chief Gailes, Ray Pinner, Mike Finnegan and himself) met January 10 when weather warnings were issued to discuss the situation and how the university would respond. The primary concern in this situation was the safety of students and staff. Each situation is different depending on the set of circumstances, but the primary concern is always the safety of students, faculty and staff. It was determined that the reasonable solution in this incident was that we could provide shelter for all employees, but not all students, therefore it was safer for classes to be cancelled and staff stay at the university. President Williams stated that the Emergency Cell Notification System is reserved for crisis situations only, such as a tornado being sighted in the immediate area, or an immediate dangerous/life threatening situation. Chief Gailes would then make the call for the ECN system to be activated.

- Kristy Holland reminded Staff Senate that the "Just Move It" Program start date is January 28, 2008 and will run for the next ten weeks.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Joanie Fletcher (Career Services) announced that the Career Fair will begin March 12, with interviews March 13 in UC Exhibit Hall.
- Ray Pinner gave a brief update regarding the budget outlook. He stated that we have had a very good run of State appropriations. The economy has slowed, no proration is expected this year. However, next year the picture is not bright. At best, we will have a "break even" budget, with a 5%-9% decrease in appropriations. (Not to minimize the situation, but typically we are given a worst-case scenario, Mr. Pinner pointed out.) Retirement rate continues to escalate – increase is likely.
- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

**Jamie Clay adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.**