

**Staff Senate Meeting
February 20, 2008**

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

Guest: Laurel Long (Human Resources)

List Proxies:

Kevin Bennett for Karen Smith, Deborah Rice for Kelvin Bee, Jamie Clay for Barbara Lawson, Renata Limmer for Ravi Seth.

The meeting was called to order by Jamie Clay at 11:04 a.m.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Minutes approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Short-Term Disability - In Ravi Seth's absence, Ms. Laurel Long reported that Human Resources is doing more work on the plan design, still in the early stages. Ms. Long reminded the Staff Senate that the Sick Leave Bank is available and has not been utilized by anyone to date. Deborah Rice and Demetrice Mitchell voiced concern that the lack of usage may be due in part to the newer employees having difficulty in building up the 40 hours sick leave time before usage eligibility.

Smoking Policy – The Faculty Senate and SGA have approved. Their only concern is the implementation of the policy. Marcia Green stated that ashtrays will be moved at least 20 feet away from building entrances and designated smoking areas will be created away from buildings. Signage will be put up and benches provided for smokers.

Faculty/Staff Recognition – Mary Beth Walker reported that President Williams has spent a lot of time on each item and consulted with others in regards to faculty and staff recognition ideas. Laurel Long stated that she and Sandra Parton (HR) are working to be creative on the awards and she said that any suggestions are welcomed. Service Awards Ceremony is scheduled for May 2, 2008.

Mission Statement – Jamie Clay reported that most people wanted to 'tweak' #2 or #3 versions of the university's new mission statement. (No comments were received on #1.)

Overall, #3 seems to be more inclusive. The Mission Statement Committee is collecting information and Mary Beth Walker encouraged all of us to send our comments to President Williams, either as a group or individually. April Harris encouraged individuals with the Alumni Association to submit individual comments to President Williams. Jamie Clay requested that when comments are sent to the President, that she be copied on those as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- April Harris gave a report on the Presidential Inauguration plans. One full week (April 7 through April 11, 2008) has been designated for the inauguration, based on the "traditional outline of activities culminating into an installation ceremony pronouncing the arrival of a new leader and where the university is going in the future". This is a solemn occasion, yet a celebration. The week will be 'kicked off' by an Inaugural Walk, led by President Williams, followed by activities including; Student Art Show, Student Formal Dinner, Honors Day, Movie Marathon, "Best of UAH" Exhibit, Climate Change Forum, Symposium: "Roles and responsibilities of a Research Institute", Board of Trustees meeting, and Installation Ceremony followed by reception. Mrs. Harris encouraged that we all take part in our symbolism and tradition by attending this sacred ceremony. The official UAH Mace was shown to the Staff Senate by Mrs. Harris with an explanation of its significance and history. The inaugural webpage will go live March 1 with all schedules and information concerning Inaugural Week.

Committee Reports:

- **Election Committee:** Joanie Fletcher spoke with Keisha Askew and was told that the Election Committee does not begin planning anything until after the Staff Picnic.
- **Staff Picnic Committee:** Renata Limmer stated that she has spoken with Cynthia Doubet and that a date has not been set yet. Mary Beth Walker reminded Staff Senate that this year it will be a Faculty and Staff Picnic and may be scheduled for sometime in April following the Inaugural (date suggested: Wednesday, April 24, 2008). Ms. Limmer informed the Staff Senate that we need to start collecting items for door prizes and that a letter will be created and sent out to all faculty and staff prior to the picnic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder per the article in the Exponent: Show your Charger Spirit and wear Blue and White on Fridays. Clothing does not have to be UAH blue or UAH clothing items.
- Marcia Green: Please read through and become familiar with the Emergency Procedure Guidebook.
- Marcia Green: We may need to begin thinking about carpooling considering the higher gasoline prices. Look for information from Ms. Green in the near future.
- Joanie Fletcher: The Career Fair will begin March 12, with interviews March 13 in UC Exhibit Hall. Another record company turnout is expected.
- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

Jamie Clay adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.