

**Staff Senate Meeting
March 19, 2008**

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

List Proxies:

Jamie Clay for Jackie Siniard, Sheila Ray, Karen Smith
Deborah Rice for Kelvin Bee
Demetrice Mitchell for Rhonda Reynolds
Renata Limmer for Jackie Carlson

Jamie Clay called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

The minutes were approved from the last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Short-Term Disability – Ravi Seth met with Laurel Long 4/15/2008. Short-term disability research is on-course at this time. Something specific should be expected by end of May.

Holiday Schedules: Ravi Seth has met with Laurel Long regarding this issue. Currently, UAH has 15 calendar days, UAB – 11 days, UA – 18 days. Laurel is pulling together more information regarding other institutions. Ray Pinner would like to look at it in the context of total holidays, sick leave, etc. Hopefully we will be able to have analysis by the next Staff Senate meeting.

Staff/Faculty Picnic – Jamie Clay and Cynthia Doubet met regarding dates. President Williams would like us to consider April, since summer may be too hot. April Harris suggested the picnic be held after Spring Commencement. Suggestion: Monday, May 12. Mary Beth Walker will check with President Williams. April Harris reminded us that elections must be completed by end of May. Nomination dates for consideration: April 28 – May 2. Elections: May 5 – 9. Announcement of officers: May 12 or 14. President Williams agreed that the May 12 is a good compromise and reiterated that by having the Staff and Faculty Picnic “all inclusive”, that this is sending the message that faculty and staff are equally appreciated. Renata Limmer stated that we will have to pull together door prizes quickly. Jamie Clay has a copy of the thank-you letter sent out to donors last year. This letter is sent from the Office of the V.P. of Advancement.

After more discussion, it was decided that the Staff and Faculty Picnic would be held on the Quad on Wednesday, May 14. In case of rain, Renata will check on the availability of Spragins Hall or Charger Café.

Election Process: Joanie Fletcher reported that all nominations will go to Annie Harris, Nominations Chairperson. Ms. Fletcher clarified the Terms of Service, as stated in the policies, as no more than two consecutive terms can be served. Nominations will be April 28 – May 2, General Election – May 5 (9:00 am – 12:00 noon), Official Count: May 9 – 12:00 noon. Announcement of newly elected senators will be made at the Staff and Faculty Picnic on May 14.

Committee Reports: None

Convocation: Scheduled for August 15, 2008. President Williams wants more involvement from the staff and students in attendance (perhaps wearing Charger shirts, etc.). President Williams suggests making this a formal, university convocation, welcoming not only new faculty, but everyone new to campus, especially freshmen. It may be a good venue for recognizing staff awards, including civic, church and community awards. We may do this in Spragins Hall, as there is more room than in Chan Auditorium. President Williams welcomes thoughts and input. More information will follow.

Budget: Ray Pinner gave a budget update. The overall picture is that this year will be different from others, as there will be a significant shortfall at the state level. Higher Ed. is anticipated to absorb the cuts – 12.8% reduction in appropriations. UAH is working hard to have a voice at a higher level. Jamie Clay has a sample letter to the Legislature, which President Williams encourages all senators to personalize (e.g. "as a member of the UAH Staff Senate . . .") voicing concerns and issues related to state budget cuts. Ray Pinner stated that no raises are anticipated this year, no cutbacks in personnel at this time, but as President Williams said, performance evaluations will occur on a regular yearly basis. There was a campus-wide, system-wide planning exercise last week discussing strategies, looking at: revenue enhancements, definitely proposing a sizable increase in tuition, and a long-range tuition plan. We will be looking at expenditure base in different divisions, with proper involvement with students, faculty and staff. President Williams stated that student retention is everyone's job, as we are here because of the students. It will be a difficult year, but as we work together, it will be less painful. Mr. Pinner advised that we direct people with budget questions to his office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Williams thanked all for the success of Inauguration Week and the Inauguration Ceremony. Attendance was well over 1,000 in Spragins Hall.

Reminders:

Campus Visit Day - Saturday, April 19, 2008.
OMA Picnic - Thursday, April 17, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.