

**Staff Senate Meeting
August 19, 2009
SKH 369**

Staff Senate Attendees			
X	Dona Baker	X	Ray Pinner
	Veronica Belser	X	Erin Reid
X	Michael Carter	X	Dexter Satcher
X	Jamie Clay	X	Ravi Seth
X	Kim Fuller	X	Jacqueline Siniard
X	Mary Green	X	Libby Stanfield
X	Jackie Hankins	X	Debbie Stowers
	Angelia Heulett	X	Lisa Strickland
X	Anthony Holden		LaTrice Townsend
X	David Kyle	X	Jan Williamson
X	Barbara Lawson	X	Mary Beth Walker
	Barbara Lucius		President David Williams
X	Vonda Maclin		
X	Jan Perkins		

Proxies:

Guests:

Ray Garner

Jackie Siniard called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

Minutes Reviewed and corrections made:

- Marty Green should have no "e" at the end of Green.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parking Fee Increase: There was a lot of discussion and concern at the last meeting over the increase in parking decal fees from \$35 to \$120 dollars especially since lack of parking on campus is still a wide-spread problem. Jackie said that no one had contacted her since the last meeting expressing strong opposition and possible solutions. The question was raised if it would be possible to issue a decal for Fall only for those students who are graduating in December. It was suggested that Chief Gailles' office would be the appropriate contact.

Staff Senate Committees: Jackie also reported that 9 of 23 currently serving Senate members had emailed her as to which committees they wanted to serve on. The committee list was passed around at the meeting for another opportunity to sign up.

Drug Testing for New Employees: At last month's meeting Ravi Seth brought up the question of possibly having a drug testing policy for new employees in light of the potential for injury in the Facilities and Maintenance area. Ravi said that Human Resources stated that any policy would have to be adopted campus wide and not limited to one area. Ravi pointed out that it is difficult to get rid of an employee once they are hired. He felt that drug tests and background checks could be done at a minimal cost. Several questions and concerns were raised.

- (1) If the policy were adopted campus wide, how many employees and at what cost to the university would be involved?
- (2) How many employees at UAHuntsville in the past have been convicted of using drugs?
- (3) Do other public schools, both two-year and four-year, in Alabama have a similar policy? And do they also require background checks? (Important to know since we often compete for the same faculty and staff.

Ravi said he would talk to Laurel Long in HR again and get some statistics and also get more information regarding what policies other colleges in Alabama have and report at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

University Standing Committees: Jackie reported that Robin Douglass had contacted her asking for members of the Staff Senate to serve on three university committees: **Campus Priorities** (members of the Staff Senate executive committee), **Employee Benefits**, and **Charger Recycling**. Dona Baker volunteered to serve on the recycling committee. Descriptions of each committee were passed around at the meeting so Senators could have an opportunity to volunteer. The deadline for filling the committee positions is September 3.

Election of a new President-Elect: Dexter Satcher informed Jackie that he will need to resign as President-Elect because of his current work load. It was suggested that we look at the Senate roster and elect a new Senator who will have another year left on his/her term to take over as President next year. The terms of each Senator are on the roster and it was decided that the Senate would review those and be ready to elect someone at the next meeting.

Governmental Relations: Ray Garner came to the meeting immediately after speaking to WAFF Channel 48 regarding educational funding in Alabama, and Ray wanted to give the Senate an update from Montgomery. Both Ray Garner and Ray Pinner attended meetings in Montgomery regarding PACT, the Rainy Day fund, etc. Ray said that the average consumer has quit spending in these trying economic times, and thus the sales tax and state tax revenues are not what they would be otherwise. These taxes are the primary funders of education. Ray reported that the state has a \$1 Billion, or about 18%, deficit. Four Million dollars of the Rainy Day fund has already been used. Sixteen school systems already are operating in a deficit and sixty-nine other systems are funded from month to month.

There is pressure in Montgomery from K-12 and Teachers Unions to fund public schools. Ray did not want money taken from K-12, just that Higher Ed receive its fair share. Education is K-PhD, or at least should be viewed that way. Ray said UAHuntsville needs to reinvigorate its grass roots network and suggested that we have building captains that can get the word out to others in that building when information becomes available or action needs to be taken. Ray said that that was a useful tool when he was Staff Senate President previously. Ray said he was meeting with SGA at noon, and the students are already excited about getting involved.

The question was raised as to what we need to start doing. Ray said that by typing in Zip + 4 in the state legislature home page we could find who our individual representatives in the House and Senate are. We are all encouraged to make our voices heard during the upcoming session.

Jan Williamson volunteered to coordinate the building captains.

Enrollment Data: Debbie Stowers reported that as of the first day of class which was yesterday, August 19, enrollment was 7595. Final data will be frozen after the second week of class which is the last day to drop with a refund. Fall 2008 enrollment on the first day of class was 7293, so we are up 303 students. All colleges reported increases in both enrollment and credit hours generated (except for Liberal Arts, non-degree, and Undeclared which were down in credit hour production):

	Enrollment	Credit Hours
Business Administration:	4.2%	7.9%
Engineering:	8.1%	8.6%
Liberal Arts:	0.1%	-1.5%
Nursing:	8.7%	15.8%
Science	4.6%	8.4%

Miscellaneous, which includes HPE courses, MIL classes, etc, was also up 9.7% in credit hours generated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The question was raised as to how often Staff Senate committees meet and who selects the chairs. The answer seemed to be that committees meet when there is a need and each committee selects its own chair. It was suggested that at the end of next month's meeting each committee get together to begin planning for the year.

Marty Green made pictures of new Senators after the meeting to post on the Staff Senate web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.