

Staff Senate – January 20, 2010

SKH 301

Present: Dona Baker, Michael Carter, Jamie Clay, Kim Fuller, Marty Green, Anthony Holden, David Kyle, Dexter Satcher, Ravi Seth, Libby Stanfield, Debbie Stowers, Lisa Strickland, Jan Williamson, Mary Beth Walker

Proxies: Jamie Clay for Angelia Heulett and Barbara Lucius, Anthony Holden for Jan Perkins, Marty Green for Erin Reid, Laurel Long for Ray Pinner, Mary Beth Walker for President David Williams

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 by President-Elect Anthony Holden.

Proxies were announced. The minutes from the November meeting were approved as read.

April Harris, the new professional events coordinator, attended the meeting to talk about what her office does. April stressed that a lot of their efforts involve outreach into the community. Some of their recent activities included

- Working with graduating seniors to help them be successful after they leave UAH
- Hosting Congressman Aderholt and familiarizing him with UAH when he visited campus
- Meeting with General O'Reilly, head of Missile Defense, who oversees a one billion dollar budget. General O'Reilly spoke to business students and is looking for UAH graduates to work in the defense area.
- Hosting General Cartwright on campus for a free lecture also regarding the missile defense program
- Coordinating with the Davidson Center at the US Space and Rocket Center and partnering with Indian students and alumni to bring Dr. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, to speak at a luncheon which was open to the community. Press coverage in India was significant since Dr. Kalam is considered the "Father of the Indian Space Program." The event actually made a profit.
- Partnering with the Women's Leadership Council to sponsor a Girls in Science and Engineering Day in November. The focus was getting third through fifth grade girls interested in technology and stressing the importance of taking math and science courses. There were over one hundred volunteers, many of whom were UAH alumna.

It was suggested that these events be included in the university calendar of events master calendar. April is open to ideas and offered that her office would be willing to help promote and link events together whenever possible in order to maximize manpower and funds in order to get "more value for the money" so to speak.

Vanessa Ennis, the Energy Manager on campus, could not attend today's meeting but will come to a later one. Vanessa has information on how to cut down on energy bills and other cost saving and environmentally friendly tips.

Old Business: The Staff Senate agreed that the joint meetings with the Faculty Senate last year were informative, so Anthony or Jackie will contact the Faculty Senate President to see if they wish to continue the combined meetings.

The question was raised if a Staff Senate member cannot attend a meeting whom should be contacted to serve as proxy? Should it be someone from your area? The by-laws state that anyone may be asked to attend as proxy, even someone not currently serving on Staff Senate. The by-laws committee will look at the policy.

Committee Reports: Communications: Marty Green reported that staff listing by zone is almost complete. November meeting minutes will be sent to IT to be added to the Staff Senate website. Some items on the website need to be cleaned up and updated.

Election: Both electronic and paper ballots are being reviewed to fill the vacancies on the Senate.

Employee Benefits: Ravi Seth and Debbie Stowers reported that the "spouse plus one" option for Blue Cross health coverage would be too expensive.

Employee Development: Lisa Strickland reported that Professional Development offers a fifty percent discount to full-time UAH faculty and staff for their courses. The question was raised if spouses and family members might be eligible for a discount some time in the future. Lisa replied that was not something that Professional Development had considered but that if a class fills with paying patrons, some type of discount might be possible at a later date.

Governmental Relations: Jan Williamson reported that Ray Garner felt UAH retirees should be included in the email campaign to Montgomery since health insurance (PEEHIP for retirees) could also be effected by legislature decisions. A representative from SGA will come to a Staff Senate meeting, hopefully in February, to talk about Higher Ed Day and how faculty, staff, and students can work together.

Policies and Procedures and Staff Picnic Committees had no reports.

New Business: Debbie Stowers reported that as of the seventh day of spring classes, enrollment was up five percent and credit hour production was up six percent. January 26 is the last day to drop with a refund, and enrollment data will be frozen after that date.

Just Move It: David Kyle reported that there are lots of new activities for participants this year. There is a training group for people wanting to run a 10K, walking groups have formed, and the possibility of an indoor triathlon is being considered. David reported that there is no more possibility of going over one hundred percent on your totals. There had been complaints in the past that participants purposely set their goals low so their group could exceed their percentage. Instead individuals may earn bonus points by attending noon lectures, participate in the ladies' self-defense class, etc. The kickoff meeting will be Monday, January 25 at noon at the Fitness Center. President Williams will give a brief welcome followed by a mile walk around campus to encourage campus unity and camaraderie.

Dona Baker reported that Fleet Feet athletic shoe and apparel store located on Carl T. Jones Drive is collecting shoes and clothing for the people in Haiti. Dona said she would drop collections off or individuals may take items to the store directly. The store asks that items be brought in by January 31.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50.