

**Staff Senate Minutes
March 16, 2005**

Attendees	X	Michael Albino	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristi Greier
	X	Keshia Askew	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhonda Griner
	X	Paulette Bell	X	Anne Harper
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mary Jane Blackwell	X	Candy Horch
	X	Peggy Bower	X	Diane Jackson
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scarlet Brooks	X	Ann Lee
	X	Matthew Campbell	X	Crystal Lee
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cathi Curtis	X	Mike Logan
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holly Denenny	X	Phyllis Hollins
	X	Mattie Draper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marilyn Ratliff
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marcie Eppling	X	Linda Stanley
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vicki Fowlkes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Williamson
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Gibbs		

List Proxies:

Anne Harper for Holly Denenny and Cathi Curtis

Paulette Bell for Rhonda Griner and Scarlet Brooks

The meeting was called to order by Peggy Bower at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes of last meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16 meeting was made by Ann Lee and seconded by Paulette Bell.

Old Business:

- Progress on Welcoming Committee for new staff—still trying to contact committee chair.
- Progress on sick leave banking policy proposal—no word from Administration on a decision.

Committee Reports

- Keshia Askew and her picnic committee have begun contacting the vendors who donated door prizes for the staff picnic last year. She sent a letter to the senators this week asking for help in identifying potential new vendors and asking for help with the solicitation process. Commitment forms and follow-up thank-you letters will be made available on the Staff Senate website. A sign-up sheet for working at various jobs on the day of the picnic (May 18) was sent around. The assignment list will be posted on the website.
- Today was the deadline for any senator who will be unable to complete his/her term for the next year to contact Linda Stanley, Chair of the Elections Committee. No responses have been received. Peggy urged everyone to be thinking of nominations for 2005-06 senators and officers. Flyers soliciting nominations will be mailed to staff on April 11.

New Business

Peggy reported that Higher Education Day in Montgomery was a success, and that the turnout was the second largest ever. The message was relayed to our legislators that we exist and that we want our “fair share.” This year the lunch for participants was held in the RSA Building, and

a number of legislators were present to hear our message first hand. Some of the group walked over to the State House and left notes and letters to those legislators not at the lunch event. The governor's budget is one of the best in the past 20 years or so; however, his plan to take funds from the education trust fund to shore up the general fund would not be a good thing, since this would cause problems next year. Another solution for solving the general fund problem needs to be found.

Other Business

- Peggy has sent a letter to President Franz recommending that Charles Gailes be recognized on returning from service in Iraq. It was suggested (by Marcie Eppling) that we make the recognition of UAH staff and relatives that serve a feature of the Staff Picnic. The Senate concurred, so Peggy will send another memo to President Franz with this proposal.
- Michael Albino made the group aware that a few homeless people have been seen on and around campus recently. Michael cautioned the staff not to do anything to encourage them to remain on campus or in the buildings.
- Peggy encouraged everyone to attend the Chancellor's address on April 13 at 12:45 pm in the McDonnell Douglas Auditorium of the Materials Science Building. There will be a question-and-answer period following the address.
- Peggy asked for suggestions for the April Staff Senate meeting.
- Ann Lee asked why we still do not have a decision regarding the sick leave-banking policy proposal. Peggy will ask Ray Pinner and Dr. Franz for a yes or no answer. She suggested that the by-laws committee may want to amend the by-laws to state that a timely response to Staff Senate proposals is needed. When proposals go unanswered, the Staff Senate is made to look like a weak body, and this makes it hard to solicit membership. Senators become discouraged when their time and efforts do not produce results. It was recommended that various forums be used to list Staff Senate accomplishments.
- Peggy noted that Dr. Franz has made a positive step in changing the composition of the Campus Priorities and Resources Advisory Committee. The Staff Senate executive committee is now included on the committee. This committee will begin meeting once or twice a year. It would also be advantageous to have a Staff Senate representative on the Board.
- Crystal Lee asked if we have a Staff Senate budgetary fund. We do receive a small amount each year, and Dr. Franz also helps us with some projects.

Announcements

- Phyllis Hollins reminded senators that the annual service awards luncheon will be held in the UC Exhibit Hall on Thursday, March 31. Tickets will be on sale through March 25. Five-year awardees will be included this year. The annual UAH Foundation awards will be presented on June 15. Phyllis gave Peggy a list of eligible employees to serve on the selection Committee.
- Michael Albino announced that a "Powder Puff Mechanics" class to include instructions on how to maintain a vehicle will be offered soon. Campus Security is equipped to jump start dead batteries and assist with unlocking vehicles, but changing tires is at the officer's discretion.

Crystal Lee moved and Mattie Draper seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned at 11:35 a.m.