

**Staff Senate Meeting
September 19, 2007**

Attendees			
		Zeke Aguilera	X
		Keshia Askew	X
		Kelvin Bee	
	X	Kevin Bennett	X
	X	Jackie Carlson	X
	X	Jamie Clay	X
		Joanie Fletcher	X
		Claudia Ford	X
		Marcia Green	
	X	Annie Harris	X
	X	April Harris	
	X	Kristy Holland	
		Karla Hubbert	
		Barbara Lawson	

List Proxies:

Kristy Holland for Zeke Aguilera, Tammy Paltchikov for Claudia Ford and Melanie Newby, Rhonda Reynolds for Nikki Willis, Jamie Clay for Barbara Lawson and Jackie Siniard.

The meeting was called to order by Tammy Paltchikov at 11:02 a.m.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Minutes approved

Presentation:

Mark Cowherd, Executive Director of Facilities, informed the Staff Senate that a UAH employee must use 480 hours (12 weeks) of total leave before long-term disability becomes effective. An employee must work at UAH for an average of five years in order to accumulate that much leave time. UAH currently has no short-term disability coverage. If an employee goes off payroll due to disability, the employee must pay all health insurance premiums, including what UAH would pay. Ravi Seth and the Benefits Committee will put a proposal together for short-term disability coverage.

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Reports:

Ravi Seth reported that the Benefits committee would like to see paid leave for employees for fall and spring break. The committee would also like to see sick leave be allowed for illness within an employee's family. It was also suggested that UAH could open at 7:30 in order to avoid morning traffic.

Tammy Paltchikov reported for Marcia Green and the Policies and Procedures committee that there was concern expressed that there are no background checks on new employees in certain areas who have access to money, financial records, student data, etc. Background check policies vary within other colleges in Alabama.

April Harris reported for the Bylaws committee that a copy of the current bylaws would be distributed via email to Staff Senate members for review with some suggested technology changes.

Demetrice Mitchell reported that the Communications committee is looking at better ways of getting information out to staff. One example is the new Staff Clinic and their services.

Renata Limmer had no report from the Staff Picnic committee.

Tammy Paltchikov asked committee chairs to put their goals for the year in writing.

NEW BUSINESS

The university-wide staff holiday party has traditionally been held the second week in December and all Staff Senate members are asked to bring food. The past two years the Multipurpose Room in Frank Franz Hall has been used. It was suggested we use the third floor of the library this year for ease in parking. The Preschool Learning Center usually brings the children to sing. This year they can come any day of the week except Friday. It was suggested we have it on Wednesday since Staff Senate meets on that day. Concerns were raised over low attendance, especially at last year's party. Contributing factors were (1) everyone is busy at that time of year, (2) other offices and areas on campus are also having holiday parties, (3) lack of publicity to the UAH community.

It was suggested that we move our event to November and call it a "Harvest Fest." Another suggestion was to help with the student Harvest Dinner and forgo the staff reception this year. Other suggestions were to donate to a needy family (preferably within the UAH community) or sponsor children from the Angel Tree in the College of Engineering. Tammy said she would send an email out to all Staff Senate members asking for suggestions and input since many members were absent at today's meeting.

The Staff Senate will meet on November 14, the second Wednesday of the month, since the 21st is the day before Thanksgiving. The November date was left off the 2007-08 meeting schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ray Pinner announced that the UAH salary and budget for fiscal year 2007-08 had been approved.
- The Smoking Policy has been taken to the President's Group for approval. Ray anticipates that the policy will generate discussion on both sides.
- Renata Limmer announced that there will be a Contracting Seminar in the Bevill Center on October 23 in the morning and November 14 in the afternoon. All faculty, especially new faculty, are encouraged to attend. The forms should be on line soon in Acrobat format.
- Annie Harris announced that the Engineering picnic will be Friday, September 28 from 11:30 to 1:30 in the area between the Engineering Building and Von Braun Research Hall.

Tammy Paltchikov adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.