

**Staff Senate Meeting
August 20, 2008**

Attendees			
X	Veronica Belser	X	Sheila Ray
X	Kevin Bennett		Cheryl Plaza
X	Cheryl Bruno		Deborah Rice
X	Jamie Clay	X	Dexter Satcher
X	Claudia Ford	X	Ravi Seth
X	Kim Fuller		Jacqueline Siniard
X	Jackie Hankins	X	Lisa Strickland
	Annie Harris	X	LaTrice Townsend
X	Angelia Heulett		Jan Williamson
X	Kristy Holland	X	Mary Beth Walker
X	David Kyle	X	President David Williams
X	Barbara Lawson		
X	Renata Limmer		
	Jan Perkins		
X	Ray Pinner		

Jamie Clay called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

The minutes were approved from the last meeting.

Distribution: Updated Rosters

OLD BUSINESS:

Facilities and Operations: Robert Redmon was unavailable for this meeting to discuss campus recycling. He will attend September's Staff Senate Meeting.

Short-term Disability Vendor: Lincoln Financial will be on campus October 13-15 to meet with individual groups. They will also be attending Benefits Fair on October 16 from 11:00 to 2:00. Sandra Parton notified Jamie Clay that HR will distribute a form to all faculty and staff to indicate participation or to decline short-term disability insurance.

Sick Leave Bank: Per Laurel Long and Sandra Parton: the Sick Leave Bank is now frozen, but not abolished. No one new may contribute, but those currently enrolled may participate.

Smoking Policy Update: Dexter Satcher reported that the policy has not been approved yet. Ray Pinner will look into the status. President Williams will assist in moving this along. If it has been approved the policy will be sent on to the Office of the President for signature.

NEW BUSINESS:

Employee Benefits Committee: Ravi Seth gave an update. The committee looked into the recent complaint that there is a lack of communication implied by some of the recently terminated employees. Ravi indicated that the problem does not seem to be lack of communication, rather more guidance required from HR.

Pros and Cons of using January 2, 2009 as an additional holiday: Pro: Lisa Strickland reminded us that heating the buildings on a Friday after being shut down since 12/24 would not be energy-wise. Con: Ray Pinner and Kristy Holland pointed out that January 2, 2009 is published as a registration day and would effect Admissions, Bursar's Office, and others and classes start the following Monday (January 5, 2009). President Williams suggested that when the date doesn't affect the students, as it will this year, then we can consider implementing an additional holiday.

Media Ads/PSA Announcements: It is agreed that UAH needs more media advertising. President Williams stated that the university is looking into getting our own billboards along US 72 and I 565, noting that this type of advertising is extremely expensive. Advertising is University Relations' responsibility and they are looking at other ways to advertise to students. This is an issue but not at the top of their list at present.

Convocation: Renata Limmer expressed appreciation for the Convocation – a job well done. It was brought to her attention that some of the students are having a difficult time find their buildings. Names of buildings are needed on the back entrances to the buildings. President Williams stated that improving signage on campus is necessary. Cheryl Bruno reiterated that "Help-A-Charger" tables were beneficial the first week of school and suggested that tables may be needed over the entire campus.

On-Line Classes/Courses: Dexter Satcher inquired about on-line courses for students and staff. President Williams agrees that we need more courses available, and that the university will be forced to go that way due to budget constraints (more efficient to alleviate classroom size, faculty limitations, etc.) President Williams stated that each manager is responsible to encourage their staff to set goals, take classes/courses for self-improvement and advancement. He thanked the Staff Senate for the role we play in the operation of the university.

Staff Investment in the University: Dexter Satcher posed a question to Ray Pinner regarding the ability of university staff to invest in the university. Mr. Pinner stated that this opportunity is through Advancement, through endowments. He suggested that the Staff Senate may decide to spearhead a fund drive for a Staff Senate Endowment Fund. We also have the State Retirement Plan, RSA, etc. plans available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Note: Jamie Clay reminded Staff Senate that committees meet on an as-needed basis.

Picnic Committee: Cheryl Bruno is the chair for this committee and requested a co-chair, as she will be on maternity leave. Kristy Holland volunteered to serve as co-chair.

Faculty/Staff Senate Combined Meeting: Ravi Seth suggested that the Faculty Senate may wish to attend Staff Senate Meeting in the Fall and Staff Senate attend Faculty Senate Meeting in the Spring. Jamie Clay will speak with Rhonda Gaede (Faculty Senate President). It was noted that a larger room will be required and a conference room in the University Center was suggested. Ravi stated that at the combined meeting perhaps we need discussion regarding the picnic, as well as short-term disability.

Christmas Party: Renata Limmer suggested that in lieu of the annual Christmas party that we sponsor the Angel Tree as we did last year. A suggestion was made that we look within the UAH family for recipient(s).

Request: Mary Beth Walker announced that "Club H" is looking for different sponsors, and asked if the Staff Senate would be willing to sponsor one of the events or may be able to help finance a portion.

Sponsors are needed for the October event. David Kyle stated that "Just Move It" may be able to sponsor. Ray Pinner reminded us that state dollars cannot be used.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ChargerNet Training is not mandatory, but beneficial to everyone, as eventually UAH will be working primarily with this system (forms, etc.)

The last (paper) paychecks will be issued August 22. Mandatory direct deposit will be beginning September 5. (The final paper paycheck stubs will be issued October 5.) Ray Pinner informed us that direct deposits for all reimbursements are forthcoming.

Sheila Ray announced that a Faculty/Staff All-Sports Ticket will be available for \$40 for the entire year. Watch for a Peggy Bower email, or see Gary Ward in Athletics. Sheila also informed us that the 30 year anniversary of the UAH Hockey team is coming up in October. All original members of the team are invited to attend. More information to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm