

**Staff Senate Meeting
September 16, 2009
SKH 301**

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

Proxies: Jamie Clay for Barbara Lawson, Kim Fuller for

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 by President Jackie Siniard.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as written.

Jackie reported that all Senators are supposed to serve on two committees and not all members have signed for committees yet. David Kyle volunteered to serve on the "Swap and Share" committee, and Veronica Belser volunteered for the "Swap and Share" and Election committees. Other members present were happy with their committee assignments.

The question was raised if Latrice Townsend was still working at UAH, and it was reported that she was not. Jackie will get with Dr. Rhonda Gaede to see who received the next highest number of votes from the area of Finance and Administration to fill out Latrice's term.

New Business: The question was raised if Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance will go up for UAH employees. Ray Pinner replied that UAH will have a review with BCBS and there is a possibility rates could increase slightly since claims for last year were higher than expected.

The University Women's Club is hosting a luncheon to recruit new members this Friday, September 18, from noon to 1:00 in the Union Grove Gallery. All women who work for the university are invited and the meal is free for prospective members.

Jackie announced that she will be out on medical leave beginning next week and will probably miss the October meeting. One of the items for today was to select a President-elect from the new slate of Senators to work with Jackie this year. Anthony Holden volunteered to serve.

The United Way kickoff was yesterday and will run for a month through mid-October. Veronica Belser said she put a United Way sign up in NSSTC and it was removed, so Veronica wanted to make sure that it was permissible to put one there. It was suggested she contact Robert Redmon who is the Director of Grounds Management.

Ray Pinner reported that the Board of Trustees will be meeting tomorrow and Friday, September 17 & 18, in Tuscaloosa. Governor Riley announced a 2% proration for this year. Ray said that he and Chih Loo, who is the Associate Vice President for Budgets and Financial Planning, took care of proration for the university without having to involve the areas.

On a somewhat positive note, Ray reported that the Chief Investment Officer in the Systems Office gave a presentation to the faculty and staff on how university monies are invested and how financial policies are developed, etc. The university is millions of dollars ahead in investments we have over a ten-year period even though the last two years saw resources decline dramatically. Economists are projecting that the stock market will also begin to pick back up this year. However, education is still in a catch-up mode financially.

Two economists were brought in and gave presentations to the governor's office. A proration of 5 ½ to 10 percent would be approximately 2 ½ to 4 ½ million dollars for UAH. State taxes are not keeping up with inflation. The trust fund continues to grow, but the "Rainy Day" fund is almost exhausted and must be paid back. Sixty-nine K-12 school systems in the state have less than one month cash in reserve. K-12 has set rates and does not have the luxury of increasing tuition to raise additional funds. The PACT problem also has to be solved for students in higher education.

Ray also reported that there will be an external committee on campus in early November for two or three days to look at each of the colleges on campus. Strategic plans from the academic areas are due in mid-October. The question was asked if these consultants are receiving fees. Ray was not sure but he would get the information and forward it to Jackie to distribute to the Staff Senate.

Old Business: Libby Stanfield was going to check with Chief Gailles to see if students could purchase a parking decal for fall term only if they are graduating in December. Libby was absent, but hopefully we will have an answer at the next Senate meeting.

In a follow-up to Debbie Stowers enrollment data from the August meeting, Debbie reported that the reports are now up on the web site under the Provost's area at <http://www.uah.edu/provost/oir/index.html>. Some students are miscoded, but the Office of Institutional Research is in the process of cleaning up the cohort.

Ravi Seth said that Human Resources did not have the drug policy data, but Ravi hopes to have it and report at the October meeting.

A question was asked on the status of the Wilson Hall renovations, and Ray Pinner reported that renovations should be completed by December and the building should be reoccupied in January.

A question was raised if committees have anything pertinent to discuss and when they should meet. Jackie reported that each committee should select a chair and determine a time for meetings. Some committees may only meet on an as needed basis.

Jan Williamson reported that Ray Garner is working with Montgomery to make the voice of higher education heard so that we are treated fairly, and all university employees were encouraged to be "squeaky wheels," so to speak. In the not too distant future there will be a concerted effort for all of us to make phone calls and send email solicitations to our representatives in the state legislature.

Mary Beth Walker apologized for the short notice but reported that there will be an extended Executive Committee this afternoon and a representative from the Staff Senate needs to attend if possible. Anthony Holden volunteered to attend as President-elect.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37.