

UAH Staff Senate

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2016 11:00 am
SSB 201, UAH Campus

I. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by Midori Maloney at 11:02 a.m.

Attendance

x	Midori Maloney (Academic Affairs) - Pres.	x	Benita Hopkins (Advancement)
x	Andrea Thompson (Pres. Elect)(Advancement)	x	Valerie Johnson (At Large)
x	Beth Wilson (Academic Affairs) - Sec.	x	Laura Mann (At Large)
x	Laura Vereen (Finance & Admin)-Treas.	P	Randy Marshall (At Large)
x	Scott Royce (Student Affairs) - Staff Relations		Jeremy McKinney (Facilities)
P	Kevin Bennett (At Large)	x	De'Onah Norfleet (Finance & Admin)
	Mary Pat Bohrman (At Large)	x	Antonia Pitts (Research)
x	Dave Cook (At Large)		Liz Redding (At Large)
x	Mona Foroughi (Academic Affairs)	x	Katie Rhodes (At Large)
	Nikki Goode (At Large)	x	Anna Beth Thomason (Stud. Affairs)
x	Valerie Green (At Large)	x	Shelly Walker (Facilities)
x	Patrick Hambloch (Research)		Brittany Willis (At Large)
x	Fathia Hardy (At Large)	P	Kathy Gentry (At Large)

Quorum present? Yes

Others present: Ray Pinner, Finance & Administration and Dana Warner, Pre-professional Advising

Proxy: Beth Wilson for Kathy Gentry, Dave Cook for Randy Marshall, Shelly Walker for Kevin Bennett

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the July meeting were e-mailed to all Staff Senate members prior to the meeting and were posted on the Senate website; senators reviewed them prior

to the meeting. A motion was made to approve by Scott Royce and seconded by Laura Vereen; motion passed unanimously.

II. Unfinished Business

III. Division Reports

A. Academic Affairs – Beth Wilson/Mona Foroughi

- Today (August 17) is the first day of classes for the Fall 2016 semester.
- Gina Battle is the new Coordinator in the Honors College.
- The Registrar has a new proxy access service that will allow students to share information such as class schedules, unofficial transcripts, grades and other account information with a designated proxy. This service does not trump FERPA.
- The Student Success Center opens on Monday, August 22 along with tutoring, Academic Coaching, Exploratory Advising, and PASS programs.
- Professional and Continuing Studies now has degree programs with 2 students starting this fall.

B. Advancement –Andrea Thompson/Benita Hopkins

- Sally Badoud is leaving the university. She has accepted another position at another university and her last day is September 7. Rachel Osby has also left the university.
- The Phone-a-thon will be held September 12 through October 20. Jennifer Brost is contact and is looking for students to work. Job is listed in Charger Path. Jennifer can be contacted at 256-824-6853.
- The university event system is now live on the website and can be used for any event on campus.
- GTA training is now officially online.

C. Facilities and Operations –Shelly Walker/Jeremy McKinney

- Bryce Morgan has been named the new Director of Environmental Health and Safety.

D. Finance and Administration – Laura Vereen/De'Onah Norfleet

- Nothing to report.

E. Research – Antonia Pitts/Patrick Hambloch

- RCEU poster session is on September 9 from 3-5pm in north lobby of the SSB.

F. Student Affairs – Anna Beth Thomason/Scott Royce

- Admissions dates
 - August 24 - Guidance Counselors day
 - September 1-2 - Madison County College and Career Fair
 - October 29 and Nov 19 - Discovery Days
 - Housing is full but no pending waitlist. They are still receiving applications.

- Some students are being housed in the Bevill Center right now but there is staff and programming happening.
- WOW events are still going on.
- Friday, August 19 is the Faculty/Staff Picnic with the President on the Greenway.

IV. Committee Updates

A. Bylaws Committee – Brittany Willis, Chair

- Did not meet.

B. Government Relations Committee – David Cook, Chair

- First meeting with ex-officio member, Ray Garner
- Committee was formed by Ray Garner when the Alabama Education Association (AEA) was a threat to education funding for UAH. During their reign of power funding went from 2/3 for K-12 and 1/3 for Higher Ed to ¾ for K-12 and ¼ for Higher Ed. However, they are no longer a powerful organization.
- At that time UAH formed a Political Action Committee (PAC) of about 300 members to show legislators that we were politically active. However, due to conflicts of interest and other issue, the PAC was dissolved.
- The Education Fund shows a surplus due to the Rolling Reserve Act that doesn't allow the fund to spend more than the 5-year avg. of its revenues. This creates a surplus.
- So, rather than raise taxes, the Alabama legislature moved about \$150 million from the Education Fund to the General fund to cover shortcomings. As a result, we are showing political unity through the Alabama Unites for Education organization that we all received e-mails about last year. The current purpose of this organizations is to drive good news about higher education.
- We are trying to find out how many UAH employees have joined this group, and will use it as a basis to create a "UAH @ 100%" campaign in which we'll start a grassroots push for all UAH employees to join.
- Special session of legislature will be held starting Monday, August 15, and one of the things to be discusses is a lottery that will fund the General Fund. At this time, the system feels that this will remove the threat to the Education Fund, so is not pushing for money to go to Education.
- System office looks very carefully at every piece of legislation that will be discussed in the sessions and enters any that affect Higher Education into a spread sheet. We will try and get access to this list to keep the senate informed.
- Current threat we should keep an eye on is our pensions. The pension system is in the red (\$8 million). Already the law was changed to create a Tier 1 and Tier 2 (hired 2013 or after) for retirement. Some legislators want to make more changes. But we need to wait and give the current changes time to work.

- Letter writing campaign may be an effective way to show our concern, but we cannot use form letters. We must write individual letters in our own words based on some talking points (which we will provide).

C. Communications Committee – **Scott Royce, Chair**

- Working on creating the distribution of information to the staff following monthly meetings.
- Contact Human Resources to requested contact info for staff
- Working with Physical Plant to display information for staff who do not have access to email every day.

D. Employee Benefits & Development Committee – **Laura Vereen, Chair**

- Further discussed changing the current tuition assistance policy to specify number of credit hours versus “2 courses”. Also, maybe look into having a specific number of credit hours per academic year versus per semester. Chih Loo stated that the funding comes from unrestricted revenue pools and the funding source is the same as any scholarship offered through institutional fund.
- Discussed the past research information provided that was done in 2014.
- Plan to contact other university systems that have a tuition assistance program that includes numerous university options and ask how they handle the budgeting/funding aspect between the universities.
- We were requested to conduct a survey on Summer Flex schedule. The survey questions, concerns regarding conducting another survey, and suggestions were all discussed. We are working on preparing a draft survey.
- Flex summer schedule discussion - will not change for next summer

E. Policies and Procedures Committee – **Kathy Gentry, Chair**

Kathy was unable to attend so Beth Wilson gave report.

- Committee is working on developing a proposal on the Child Protection Policy and Benita Hopkins has taken the lead.
- A faculty member would like us to look into the policy surround issuance of temporary parking passes. They felt is is inconvenient to have to go pick up parking passes every few days if you have a rental car or a similar situation and would like to look into an easier solution.

F. Safety Committee – **Kevin Bennett, Chair**

- Katie Rhodes reported
- Have not been able to get survey that was drafted last year, will create another survey (asking about safety concerns on campus)

- Concerns about Roberts Hall having “slow down” signs on one side but not on Ben Graves side--concerned about crosswalk
- Identifying priorities so can make recommendations

G. Executive Committee – **Midori Maloney, President**

- Kevin Bennett changed jobs positions on campus and will now be a Staff Senate at large member and Jeremy McKinney is now a Facilities and Operations division lead.

V. New Business
Unfinished Business

- No update on half day proposal
- Send any feedback on forwarded proposals to Midori.

VI. Announcements

- Rescheduled Staff Senate group photo for October meeting.

VII. A motion was made to adjourn by Mona Foroughi and seconded by De’Onah Norfleet. Meeting adjourned by Midori Maloney at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Wilson, Secretary

Staff Senate

2016-2017