

# Lamar University Staff Senate

## August 9, 2011

### Senators present:

Sherri Fitzgerald, Stephanie Simmons, Valarie Black, Diann Brodnax, Kathleen Andrews, Barb Barker-Milstead, Chris Baur, Lisa Cowart, Don Curl, Susan Daniel, Steve Ford, Lena Francis (sub), Dr. Mary Gagne, Tom Griffin, Megan Hale, Sharlene Hatch, Dimples Jones, Irma Jones, Cynthia Ksiazek, Peggy Moss, Monitca Owens, Debby Piper, Lisa Roach, Doug Sampson, Patrick Stewart, Dortha Titus, Kirk Tribes, Linda Turner, Natasha Walker, and Donna Wilridge.

#### I. Call to Order

President, Sherri Fitzgerald, called the meeting to order at 10:20 am.

#### II. Roll Call

Secretary, Diann Brodnax called roll. A quorum was seated.

#### III. Minutes

Megan Hale made a motion and Linda Turner seconded to accept the July 2011 minutes.  
The Senate unanimously approved the July 2011 minutes.

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### Executive Committee:

The Exec meeting with Dr. Simmons and Dr. Lassen was held on July 25, 2011.

A question rose concerning the Early Childhood Center funding. And will the center be closing?

Dr. Simmons and Dr. Lassen answered: Lamar will no longer be subsidizing the ECDC. It will remain open through August 31, 2012. The ECDC is not charged rent or utilities.

Parents/employees will be given ample notice should the facility have to close after August 2012.

A question was asked if the Recreation Sports Center fee can be waived for employees. And can employees add a guest to their membership? Can guest passes or fees be offered? The answer:

The fee will not be waived for employees. Everyone (students, faculty, and staff) have to pay to use the facility. We will need to speak with Norman Bellard in regards to guest/visitor passes.

Another question was asked about how are other institutions in our system fairing with their funding during these hard times? The answer: The other institutions in our system have not gone through two devastating hurricanes and were able to build up substantial reserves. Lamar serves a "high-needs" student body (1<sup>st</sup> generation, low income, etc.). Sam Houston State University budget cut was 12%. However, their enrollment is much greater than Lamar. Lamar was cut 18%. Sul Ross is not doing well at all. Though not in our system, the University of Houston and Stephen F. Austin have furloughed employees – Lamar has not done this. Lamar will be asking the Board of Regents for tuition increase approval that will begin with the spring 2012 semester. If the entire increase is approved, it will cover the decrease in state funding.

A question concerning where are the Softball funds coming from was raised. The answer: This will be addressed at the next Staff Senate meeting. Dr. Lassen will speak to the senate. Due to Title IX, Lamar has to have a women's team to offset the men's football team.

A question was asked relating to the raised funds and what the funds are used for (The millions campaign). The answer: These are donor specific funds. They cannot be used for salaries.

Facilities Management employees would like to have a meeting with Dr. Simmons and Dr.

Lassen. They would like to have the opportunity to address issues and concerns with the executives.

This has already taken place. Also, the working conditions of the "new" facilities location (the old motorcycle shop on MLK) are being addressed as well as the exterior look of the building.

Bylaws Committee:

None

Community Service Committee:

Sharlene Hatch announced one March of Dimes T shirt is left for sale, size large. Contact her at X7690 if you are interested.

Fall 2011 walks for various causes will be announced soon.

A fund raiser for the Cancer Society will kick off soon.

'Get Your Red On' Campaign will begin soon.

Compensation and Budget:

None

Issues Committee:

None

Nominations Committee:

Senators voted on Staff Senate Officers at this meeting.

The 2011-2012 Officers are:

President ~ Sherri Fitzgerald

Vice President ~ Steve Ford

Treasurer ~ Lisa Roach

Secretary ~ Diann Brodnax (continuing term)

Staff Awards Committee:

Senators who served the 2007-2010 term were recognized for their service by receiving a certificate of service award. Senators who had outstanding attendance received a glass award along with a certificate. The Senators recognized for outstanding attendance were: Valarie Black, Susan Daniel, Sherri Fitzgerald, and Steve Ford.

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. New Business

None

VII. Good of the Order

Patrick Stewart congratulated the newly elected officers.

Dr. Mary Gagne thanked the senator that donated the hospitality that was provided at the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Monitca Owens to adjourn, Patrick Stewart seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

**OPEN MEETING**

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY  
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

**September 13, 2011  
10:00 A.M.  
Gray Library 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
- VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**