

Lamar University Staff Senate

February 10, 2009

Senators present:

Jana Daigle, Gail Martel, Valarie Black, Donna Blaisdell, Lisa Cowart, Tricia Culver, Don Curl, Susan Daniel, Amanda Doiron, Elaine Ferguson, Sherri Fitzgerald, Mary Givan, Shannon Klutts, Cynthia Ksiazek, Diana Licatino, Brandi McClary, Debbie Piper, Sharon Sanders, Dave Stafford, Patrick Stewart, and Kim Wiley.

I. Call to Order

President, Jana Daigle, called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

II. Roll Call

Secretary, Diann Brodnax was absent. Kim Wiley took the minutes. A quorum was not seated.

III. Minutes

Jana instructed the senators to send January meeting minutes corrections to Diann Brodnax. The January minutes will be reviewed at the March meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

Execs met with Dr. Simmons on January 22. Higher Education Holdings (HEH) is expanding into online dual co-op (dual high school and college credits) and online BAAS degrees at Lamar this fall. The Houston and Dallas areas are reported to be first with 3-4 high schools in 300+ school districts. Simmons told the execs that similar existing degree programs currently offered at Lamar, and the students enrolled in them, will continue for now. Senators discussed the opportunity for Lamar to continue to grow and remain competitive with other universities by offering more online degrees.

The merit pay plan is being developed along with money to fund the plan. President Simmons reported that the staff merit pay plan will differ from the faculty merit pay plan and that the staff plan will be in addition to annual across-the-board raises. He assured the execs that the merit pay plan will happen but a definite date has not been set.

Jana Daigle explained that senate funds left over after the fiscal year are rolled back into the University's funds. The senate does not keep the unused funds, and the senate is encouraged spend the funds allocated yearly. Staff Senate uses some of the funds to purchase the secretary's supplies, and other funds go toward the yearly staff awards ceremony and the staff senators' Christmas reception.

Bylaws Committee:

None

Community Service Committee:

Anna Lalonde needs to resign as committee chair due to the extensive Ike damage to her Bridge City home. The Community Service Committee needs to nominate and elect a replacement chair.

Compensation and Budget:

Don Curl reported that the RFP for the merit pay consultant was released.

Issues Committee:

None

Nominations Committee:

None.

Staff Awards Committee:

The Distinguished Staff Awards nomination packet was released. Nominations are due February 20. Only three nominations have been received so senators were asked to remind co-workers that the Distinguished Staff Award is a great honor that includes a \$500-valued gift, a beautiful plaque, and a certificate for framing.

A list of staff scheduled to receive a yearly award was also released. Staff whose names were left off the list should contact Human Resources.

The Staff Awards Ceremony is scheduled for April 9 on the 8th floor of the library.

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. New Business

Don Curl announced that employee ID cards issued before the Banner implementation may display the employee social security numbers. These employees can get a new ID card for free by going to Human Resources to request an ID authorization form and taking that form to the Wimberly building to have a new ID card issued. Look in the next Human Resources newsletter for more information.

VII. Good of the Order

Sherri Fitzgerald announced that this weekend's Men's Basketball game will be Saturday, February 14 at 8:05 p.m. against Texas State (San Marcos). The game will be televised on ESPN2. Staff can receive 2 free tickets at the door, one hour in advance. Children accompanying a staff member will be admitted free also.

Valarie Black announced that Homecoming Food Fest "A Taste of Big Red" will be held Thursday, February 19 in the Setzer Center beginning at 10 a.m. Thirty student groups have already signed up. Please remind everyone to come to support our student organizations and enjoy the great food. And Saturday, February 21 is Open House with the homecoming basketball game that evening. Details will be available in the University Press.

Amanda Doiron asked the senators to encourage anyone they know that is interested in Lamar University to attend Open House which starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 21.

Yard signs are now available in the Alumni office and other locations across campus. The Alumni office requested that anyone distributing yard signs remove them on Monday, February 23.

A "Meals on Wheels" fundraiser flyer was distributed. The fundraiser will be king-sized baked potatoes with barbeque chip beef, butter, cheese and sour cream for \$6.50. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered on request. They would like the money in advance unless someone is willing to collect it in one location for them to pick it up. Contact Lottie or Laura at 892-4455 or 722-7782 for more information.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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OPEN MEETING

LAMAR UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE MEETING

**March 10, 2009
10:00 A.M.
Gray Library 8th 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