

Staff Senate

Held on: February 11, 2003, 10:00 a.m.
Held at: 8th Floor of the John & Mary Gray Library

Senators present:

Kay Adamson, Julie Alford, Valerie Black, Vonda Browning, Sal Costa, Dennis Crow, Jana Daigle, Gail Davis, Sherri Fitzgerald, Tina Johnson, Diana Licatino, Gene Moye, Elton Payne, Kathy Pierce, Cindy Rhoden, Wendy Smith, David Stafford, Karen Wells

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice-President Jana Daigle.

II. Roll Call

The roll was called by Tina Johnson. There were 18 members present. A quorum was seated.

III. Minutes

Karen Wells made a motion to accept January 14, 2003 minutes without changes and Sherri Fitzgerald seconded. The Senate approved January 14, 2003, minutes unanimously without changes. Tina Johnson will post the minutes to the Staff Senate website.

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Board: Jana Daigle reported information from the February 6, 2003, Executive Board meeting with Dr. Simmons and Mr. Ferguson as follows:

Designating a departmental computer so staff can retrieve Mirabeau messages: Mr. Ferguson will follow-up.

Concerns regarding the required information for guest of the Fitness Center (Driver's license/Social Security numbers): Dr. Simmons will follow-up.

Staff Awards (traditional pins): Dr. Simmons confirmed that staff has the option of choosing the traditional pins or a different type of award.

Staff Recognition and Retirement Awards Policy and Procedure: Eddie Henley presented Dr. Simmons and Mr. Ferguson with the new Staff Awards policy and procedure guidelines. They will review it and give their feedback.

Bylaws Committee: The Bylaws Committee met on January 21, 2003. There were 4 members present and a quorum was seated. Sherri Fitzgerald, Chair, reported that the agenda item was to change the wording of Article 3, Section 5, Number 3 concerning the Parliamentary Advisor. The committee members were unanimous that Article 3, section 5, Number 3 should read as follows:

The Staff Senate President shall act as Parliamentary advisor for all meetings of the Staff Senate and assigned sub-committees where business is conducted on behalf of the Staff Senate.

It was also decided that a statement should be added to the Vice President and Secretary sections concerning their role as a Parliamentary Advisor. The statements are as follows:

The Staff Senate Vice-President shall act as Parliamentary advisor for all meetings of the Staff Senate and assigned sub-committees where business is conducted on behalf of the Staff Senate.

The Staff Senate Secretary shall act as Parliamentary advisor for all meetings of the Staff Senate and assigned sub-committees where business is conducted on behalf of the Staff Senate.

The decision to delete "Parliamentary Advisor" from Article IV, Section 1, was also unanimous. The Senate will vote on this issue at the next scheduled meeting.

Community Service: Diann Palmer, Chair, reported information about the "adopt a basketball player", for Lamar's Homecoming game. You can sponsor Lamar women/men basketball players by holding their pictures up during the Homecoming games. For more information you can contact Diann Palmer in Developmental Studies.

V. Unfinished Business

Merit Pay Plan

Staff Recognition and Retirement Awards Policy and Procedure

Voting-Parliamentary Advisor position

Salary Comparisons

VI. Good of the Order

Valerie Black gave all Senators, and guests' cards stating the upcoming basketball Homecoming events.

Jana Daigle, Vice-President, introduced our guests, Mr. Ferguson and Ms. JoAnn Russell.

Mr. Ferguson reported information regarding budget cuts. There is no major panic, because of Lamar's growth. The budget freeze will affect out-of-state travel, capital expenses, and new hires of faculty/staff. The budget freeze will not affect HEAF funds and the 10- year renovation plan for the campus. All employees will need to be more conservative and find ways to save energy within their department.

JoAnn Russell reported information regarding upcoming and possible changes that the Employee Retirement System will propose that may have a direct impact on employees of Lamar University and the Institute of Technology.

House Bill 459:

This proposed legislation would grant one additional hour of annual leave to each monthly accrual rate and 12 hours to each maximum accrual.

Health Care Proposes by the Employee Retirement System:

- Imposition of a waiting period for new hires of 30, 60, or 90 days.
- Eliminate Health Select Plus.
- Increase office visit co-payments (\$20 or \$30)
- Increase specialist co-payments (\$5 or \$10 or more)
- Impose \$100 per/day inpatient or outpatient co-payment
- Increase Health Select Plus maximum out-of-pocket to \$1000 for network and \$3000 for non-network.
- Impose mandatory generic prescriptions.
- No retiree coverage for members not contributing at retirement. This means former employees cannot come back when they reach retirement age and claim their former health insurance benefit. Only current employees who are enrolled in the health insurance plan will be eligible for retiree coverage.

Jana Daigle stated that the information in the newsletters does come from JoAnn Russell in Human Resources, however, the information Jo Ann refers to comes from the Employee Retirement System (ERS). Questions may be directed to HR on these issues, but HR may direct you to contact ERS or other sources to get your answers and/or to voice your concerns.

Karen Wells moved to adjourn the meeting 11:05 a.m., and Vonda Browning seconded.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05a.m.