

Staff Senate

Held on: July 12, 2005, 10:00 AM
Held at: John Gray Library

Lamar University Staff Senate
July 12, 2005

Senators present:

Jana Daigle, Ben Bythewood, Mary Givan, Francis Morris, Dawna Mitchell, Gail Cokley, Charlotte, LeBlanc, Peggy Pavlowich, Diana Licatino, Sal Costa, Faye Johnnie, Dave Stafford, Julie Alford, Cathy Dunaven, Shannon Klutts, Valerie Black, Steve Ford, Helen Klutts, Donna Blaisdell, Lena Francis, and Royce McGuire.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll call

The roll was checked by Secretary, Diana Licatino. There were 20 senators present at roll call. A quorum was not seated.

III. Minutes

April, May & June minutes could not be approved as there was no quorum. These will be voted on in the August meeting if there is a quorum.

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Staff Awards – Check personalized letter and progress of signatures, 17 (estimated) Distinguished Staff Nominations were turned in.

Dr. Simmons said it would be ready today. The letter was in Kevin Smith's office for approval.

Pay increases – The State of Texas did not give Higher Education a 4% pay increase. In anticipation of this action the Lamar University Executives added 4% to their appropriations request, which has now been approved by the State of Texas. If approved by the Board of Regents each staff member will receive a 4% or \$100 per month increase in pay beginning September 1, 2005.

Longevity – The State of Texas has again changed their policy on longevity pay. Employees will now receive \$20.00 per month every 2 years instead of every 3 year. The State of Texas is requiring this change, however they are not funding any extra money for the change. The money you will be receiving is from Lamar University.

Staff members taking courses during the working day-

Human Resources has followed the policy that was implemented last year and rejected staff members requests to take courses during the working day. The Staff Senate addressed this issue

with Dr. Simmons' and Mr. Ferguson during the Spring semester requesting that if a supervisor approves the course the staff be able to take the course. At that time they agreed to review the policy. We re-addressed this issue for the upcoming semester with Dr. Simmons' and Mr. Ferguson. The decision is that we will continue to comply with the policy. If the course is offered at night the staff member MUST take the night course.

Other issues Dr. Simmons' wants to discuss -

Dr. Simmons stated that Summer II numbers seemed to be down a little but not much.

Staff Awards Committee: Donna Blaisdell is waiting on the personalized letter from Dr. Simmons' along with his signatures for the certificates. HR has recently provided a new list for the years of service awards. Please follow the instructions: if you are not on the list and think you should be, please call HR.

Nominations Committee: Royce McGuire stated that there are new senators and she will be getting that list out.

Shannon Klutts has moved to the business department and they needed a senator so she will remain as a senator representing the College of Business.

Jeremy Landry has resigned and Royce will send the IT division another nomination form for that position.

Royce passed out the Nomination forms for the 2005-2006 Executive Positions. She requested Jana to also email these out for those senators that could not make the meeting. Current senators and new senators need to provide their nominations to Royce McGuire by July 20, 2005 for the following positions.
President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Community Service: March of Dimes – Shannon Klutts reported that she still has one XL shirts March of Dimes T-shirt left to sell. Lena Francis decided she wanted to join the exclusive club of limited edition MOD T-shirt owners and purchased the last shirt at the meeting! Shannon scheduled a meeting directly after the staff senate meeting to discuss the DESK campaign for Fall 2005.

Issues Committee: None

ByLaws Committee: None

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. New Business

Darlene Harvey, standing in for Sharon Sanders asked if the issue of changing the Distinguished Staff Awards from 5 years to 3 years had been addressed. Jana Daigle stated that the Staff Awards Committee had looked into the issue, and it was decided that the 5 years showed loyalty and dedication to the University. The committee decided that the years should not be changed.

VII. Good of the Order

Shannon Klutts grandfather passed away.

Donna Birdwell was present to speak for the SACS Committee regarding the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Donna is co-chairing the committee with Dr. Paula Nichols. She asked the Senators to help out by listing on paper our responses to two questions: What are the 3 best things about Lamar University with respect to student learning? What are the 3 problems with Lamar University with respect to student learning? After everyone wrote down their answers there was discussion and more input for her to take back to her committee. She also asked us to write down any suggestions for improvement on the back of our paper.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45a.m.