

Staff Senate

Held on: June 10, 2003, 10:00 a.m.
Held at: John & Mary Gray Library 8th Floor

Senators present:

Debbie Borel, Valerie Black, Gail Cokley, Sal Costa, Jana Daigle, Gail Davis, Eddie Henley, Tina Johnson, Diann Palmer, Elton Payne, Kathy Pierce, Cindy Rhoden, Bill Skinner, David Stafford, Karen Wells, Tina Wright

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Eddie Henley and Jana Daigle, Vice-President, directed the meeting.

II. Roll Call

The roll was called by Tina Johnson. There were 16 members present. A quorum was seated.

III. Minutes

Karen Wells made a motion to accept the minutes from May 13, 2003 meeting and Cindy Rhoden seconded. The Senate approved the minutes unanimously without changes. Tina Johnson will post the minutes to the Staff Senate website.

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Board:

Jana Daigle reported that the Staff Recognition and Retirement Awards Policy and Procedure was approved by Dr. Simmons and Mr. Ferguson.

Red, White, and Blue Fridays: This issue will be reviewed with other Executives and a response will be given to the Executive board at a later date.

Staff Award Committee:

Jana Daigle stated that if any employee is concerned about their name not being on the list, they should contact Human Resources at x8375. Jana will send out another Mirabeau message of the awards list and she is willing to fax copies to departments who do not have computer access. Cindy Rhoden, chair, mentioned that award recipients may come to the Staff Senate meeting (July 8th; 10:00 a.m.) to choose their award if they can not view the selections on the web. An appointment can be made with Cindy to view the awards catalogs prior to the deadline date of July 15, 2003, ONLY if there is no other way that the award selections can be viewed.

V. Unfinished Business

Budget Committee- Salary Comparisons

Nominations Committee- Vacant positions

Staff Issues- Employee Education and Training Plan

VI. Good of the Order

Annette Thompson from Human Resources reported that 9 supervisor training sessions for the new

staff performance evaluation has been completed so far. A total of 150 supervisors were trained. Staff concerns from surveys distributed by the Staff Senate were used in the sessions. All staff performance evaluations are due on August 31, 2003.

Annette also gave information regarding co-pay changes effective July 1, 2003. They are as follows:

Co-pays for a 30-day supply of maintenance drugs at your retail pharmacy:

\$15.00 - Generic
\$35.00 - Preferred
\$55.00 - Non- Preferred

Co-pays for a 90-day supply of maintenance drugs by mail order:

\$30.00- Generic
\$75.00- Preferred
\$120.00- Non- Preferred

Co-pays for non-maintenance drugs at your retail pharmacy

\$10.00- Generic
\$25.00 Preferred
\$40.00 Non-Preferred

Summer Enrollment will begin on July 21, 2003 through August 22, 2003. All SKIP and Tex Flex participants must re-apply yearly. Senate Bill 1370 has passed. Effective September 1, 2003 a 90-day waiting period will be imposed on new employees enrolling in health insurance. Information was shared regarding retiring with benefits. Employees who leave State service, but do not retire and later return must complete another 90-day waiting period. To be eligible to participate in the health insurance as a retiree, retiring employees will be required to have 10 years of eligible service credit and be age 65, OR retiring employees must meet the Rule of 80 at retirement. Rule of 80 = Age at retirement plus number of years of service must equal 80 or more. The retirement changes are applicable to both TRS participants and ORP participants. The new changes can be found at the Employee Retirement System's website at www.ers.state.tx.us.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.