

Lamar University Staff Senate

October 14, 2008

Senators present:

Jana Daigle, Valarie Black, Diann Brodnax, Barb Barker-Milstead, Donna Blaisdell, Tricia Culver, Sherri Fitzgerald, Lena Francis, Sharlene Hatch, Rosa Hubbard, Dimples Jones, Irma Jones, Tina Johnson, Shannon Klutts, Cynthia Ksiazek, Anna Lalonde, Diana Licatino, Gail Martel, Brandi McClary, Debby Piper, Melinda Prince, Faye Richard, Sharon Sanders, Stephanie Simmons, Dave Stafford, Patrick Stewart (sub), Lisa Taylor-Cowart (sub), Kim Wiley, and Donna Wilridge

I. Call to Order

President, Jana Daigle, called the meeting to order at 10:06am.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Minutes

There were no corrections to the September 2008 minutes. Sherri Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the September 2008 minutes with no corrections and Diana Licatino seconded the motion. The Senate unanimously approved the September 2008 minutes.

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Committee: scheduled to meet October 23, 2008.

Bylaws Committee:

Sherri Fitzgerald presented two changes in the Bylaws for voting. In Article 3, Section 3 of the Bylaws the changes are as follows underlined : ballots will be distributed on week prior to the July meeting for Executive Officers and returned to the Nominations committee to tally and then be announced at the August meeting in order to have the officers in place by the September meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the July meeting only.

Article 4, Section 5 states each representative, including the officers, shall have one vote. Representatives shall be regarded as either present or absent. There shall be no substitutes and no proxies, members may send a representative but that representative is not granted voting privileges.

Senators voted on the two above changes to the Bylaws. The vote was unanimous in favor of. Donna Blaisdale motioned the approval, Debby Piper seconded.

Sherri Fitzgerald, Chair of the Bylaws committee will hold a meeting right after Staff Senate is adjourned.

Community Service Committee:

None

Compensation and Budget:

None

Issues Committee:

None

Nominations Committee:

Diann Brodnax passed out ballot forms for the Vice President replacement. Steve Ford stepped down due to health reasons. Senators were asked to write in a nominee. The ballots were collected and counted by Valarie Black. Gail Martel received the most write in votes. She accepted the nomination as Vice President.

Staff Awards Committee:

None

V. Unfinished Business

The issue of students parking between John Gray Center and CV IV was raised. A comment was made that cars were being ticketed and towed. Senators were wondering what the status was on this issue.

VI. New Business

Some staff members have asked why we don't get paid what other universities that compare with LU get paid.

1. In order to compare LU to another institute you must find one that fits pretty close.
2. In number of students LU recently gained a large number of enrolled students. Our enrollment has not been at this level consistently for years. SHSU has retained their enrollment with a consistent number of students for more than 10 years.
3. With the number of students enrolled you also have to look at the type of college, the number of employees, campus size, and other charges that may affect the institute.

Jana Daigle, President, briefly looked and compared SHSU to LU

	SHSU	LU
Staff	739	720
Faculty	913	566
Student Employees	1250	
Students enrolled	16416	13400
Campus size	272 acres	29 acres
Resident Halls	32	4

LU offers Engineering programs – SHSU does not

SHSU offers Agricultural Programs – LU does not

The community base in Huntsville is students, college employees, prison workers, farmers.

The community base in Beaumont is a majority of plant workers.

Jana requested Greg Marsh from IRR to see if he could compile a way to compare LU with other institutions to show which institution we would actually compare to. Once we know which institute we compare to we can then begin to compare our pay scale on a fair basis.

Diana Licatino raised the issue that employees are leaving LU for better pay while retaining the same job title and responsibilities. Then the LU job post for the vacant spot has a raise in salary. Her question was “why is LU letting good employees leave with a lower pay and raising the pay for a new employee?”

Jana Daigle recommended a PDQ be filled on any job description that has changed since the employee started. She suggested there be documentation to back up the claim and have your supervisor back up the changes.

VII. Good of the Order

Valarie Black announced the Student Organization Fair has been rescheduled to October 23, 2008 from 9am – 2pm in the Setzer Center. She encourages everyone to come and support our students. Valarie mentioned this fair is not to be confused with Food Fest held in the spring during Homecoming.

Valarie announced Greek Cardinal Fest will be held October 30, 2008 5:30pm-8:00pm Setzer Center Ballroom. The Greeks will be dressed up in Halloween costumes.

Valarie Black raised the question “what can Staff Senate do to help employees that have lost their houses due to Hurricane Ike?” An idea from the senators was to give gift cards to the needy. Anna LaLonde, chair Community Service Committee, will check with Mr. Ferguson about the procedure in giving gift cards out. Anna is calling a meeting with the CS committee to discuss ideas and an application required for the victims to fill out. If senators have any ideas for helping the Hurricane Ike victims, please post to the Staff Senate message board.

Diana Licatino's house was damaged by Hurricane Ike. Pictures of her house are posted on the Staff Senate group under MyLamar. Diana is interested in forming a clean-up crew to help with the area wide cleanup.

Cynthia Ksiazek announced flu shots will be given out to students and employees. The cost is 15\$ for students and 20\$ for faculty/staff. 160 students turned out the first week to receive flu shots.

Lena Francis announced Educator Job Fair set for November 6, 2008 1:00pm-3:00pm on the 8th floor of the Library. The fair will target those with a bachelor's degree. She stated a larger fair will be held in the spring.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business, Diana Licatino made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dimples Jones seconded the motion, the Senate unanimously passed the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

OPEN MEETING

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

**November 11, 2008
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**