

Lamar University Staff Senate

March 15, 2011

Senators present:

Sherri Fitzgerald, Stephanie Simmons, Valerie Black, Chris Baur, Dewanna Campbell, Evie Clifton, Robert Corbett, Lisa Cowart, Tricia Culver, Don Curl, Susan Daniel, Steve Ford, Lena Francis, Dr. Mary Gagne, Megan Hale, Sharlene Hatch, Dimples Jones, Cynthia Ksiazek, Richard Lanoue, Debby Piper, Lisa Roach, Doug Sampson, Sharon Sanders, Dorothea Titus, and Linda Turner.

I. Call to Order

President, Sherri Fitzgerald, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

II. Roll Call

President, Sherri Fitzgerald called roll. A quorum was seated.

III. Minutes

Valerie Black noticed needed corrections on the February 8, 2011 meeting minutes. The corrections were noted and will be corrected immediately. Lisa Roach made a motion to accept the February 8, 2011 meeting minutes with corrections and Megan Hale seconded. The Senate unanimously approved the February 8, 2011 meeting minutes with corrections. (A special thanks to Tina Johnson for taking the March minutes.)

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

The executive committee did not meet with Dr. Simmons prior to the March 15, 2011 meeting.

Bylaws Committee:

None

Community Service Committee:

Sharlene Hatch passed out approved March of Dimes and Relay for Life posters for senators to place in their departments. There was also a March of Dimes sign-up sheet distributed to senators who would like to participate in the March for Babies walk. **The March for Babies walk will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at the Lamar University John Gray Center. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the walk starting at 10:00 a.m. The Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) event will take place inside the Lamar University Montagne Center on Saturday, April 9, 2011 beginning at 7 p.m. through Sunday, April 10, 2011 ending at 7 a.m. (24 hours).**

There was an open discussion on where to purchase a nice large red canopy for the March for Babies walk. Several senators said to check Gander Mountain, Academy, or American Air. Valerie Black stated that Diann Brodnax will donate the sign for the walk.

Guest Speaker#1

Relay for Life- Brittany Ross, Event Chair

Brittany mentioned that she wanted to raise awareness on campus about the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event. She mentioned that the goal this year is have 20 teams, 20 survivors, and raise 20, 000. The team minimum is 8, but there is no team maximum limit. She encouraged Lamar faculty, staff, students, and families to register for the event and fundraise. Fundraising can be done on your own or at the event. All monies earned stays in the community locally. The event will have free food, music disc jockey, fun games, and prizes.

Guest Speaker #2

March of Dimes- Donna Blanchette, Division Director

Donna gave an overview of the March of Dimes and stated that everyone has been touched by this organization. She encouraged all Lamar faculty, staff, and students to get involved for the walk and to register on-line. She mentioned that a portion of funds raised does go to research and programs, but most of the funds are used here locally. There is a growing concern through the March of Dimes with scheduled births (preterm births- delivery before 40 weeks).

Compensation and Budget:

None

Issues Committee:

None

Nominations Committee:

None.

Staff Awards Committee:

Dr. Mary Gagne stated that the staff awards subcommittee met for an extended period of time to review distinguished staff nomination forms. A total of 17 distinguished staff nomination forms were received and the subcommittee selected five distinguished staff award recipients.

V. Unfinished Business

Per Human Resources, the family of Bill Roth has accepted the invitation to receive his 30 year service award at the Staff Awards ceremony on April 5, 2011.

Sherri Fitzgerald, president, mentioned that there were no updates on the return of the dining hall food trays.

Lamar employees in the Hayes Biology building are still taking responsibility in locking the building themselves.

VI. New Business

Debby Piper stated she was concerned about the siren that alarmed on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. No email message was received pertaining to the siren and how to respond to it. Sherri Fitzgerald, president, will follow-up on this issue.

Doug Sampson stated that he and Kevin Haack really need a building coordinator list. Sherri Fitzgerald, president, will follow-up with Diann Thibodeaux in Facilities Management to find out how we can establish a list.

Lisa Roach stated her concern regarding the curve on Rolfe Christopher in front of the Kampus Korner restaurant and across from the Plummer building intersection. She would like to know if a STOP sign could be placed at the intersection near the Kampus Korner restaurant to prevent an auto accident.

Treasury Report

Valerie Black, treasurer, stated that there is currently \$1892.69 in the Staff Senate's budget. Linda Turner moved to approve the treasurer's report and Lisa Roach seconded. The Senate unanimously approved the treasurer report for March 15, 2011.

VII. Good of the Order

Sherri Fitzgerald stated that there will be a Lamar men's baseball double header game on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. The game will begin at 2:00 p.m. at Vincent Beck Stadium.

Lisa Cowart stated information learned from the weekly Texas Government insider (Publication of Strategic Partnership Newsletter) regarding the bill proposed to order unpaid leave for state employees. This bill has not been mandated currently. The original article from the Texas Government Insider is listed below:

Budget woes could lead to mandatory furloughs of state workers (Article dated, March 11, 2011)

Pitts bill would allow agency heads to order unpaid days off for employees

The state budget deficit is starting to hit close to home for thousands of employees of the State of Texas. And legislation filed this week could hit those employees where it hurts the most - in their pockets.

A bill filed by Rep. Jim Pitts of Waxahachie, who also chairs the House Appropriations Committee, would allow for unpaid furloughs of state employees during the next two-year budget cycle. Unlike in California and other states where furloughs were mandated by the state, this bill takes the onus off the legislature and puts it on state agency boards and heads of those agencies. With the approval of the governing board, agency heads could institute unpaid furloughs for their employees to help bridge the agencies' budget deficits.

According to the bill, the furloughs would affect a state board, commission, office, department or other agency in the executive, judicial or legislative branches of state government as well as institutions of higher education. The furloughs would reduce an employee's pay by an amount equal to the number of hours the employee is furloughed times the employee's hourly rate or equivalent hourly rate. Estimates are that a one-day furlough per month could mean a 5 percent reduction in pay for state employees.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the bill does have provisions that would keep furloughed employees who qualify for health insurance and other benefits from losing those benefits if they work less than 40 hours per week. The furlough would also not count as a break in service for the employee, who would continue to accrue state service credit toward longevity pay, vacation leave and sick leave. If passed, the bill would take effect Sept. 1.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Linda Turner to adjourn, Lisa Roach seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

OPEN MEETING

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

**April 12, 2011
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**