

Lamar University Staff Senate

November 11, 2008

Senators present:

Jana Daigle, Gail Martel, Valarie Black, Diann Brodnax, Tricia Culver, Don Curl, Sherri Fitzgerald, Steve Ford, Mary Given, Megan Hale, Dimples Jones, Tina Johnson, Shannon Klutts, Cynthia Ksiazek, Debby Piper, Sharon Sanders, Stephanie Simmons, Dave Stafford, and Patrick Stewart.

I. Call to Order

President, Jana Daigle, called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

II. Roll Call

Secretary, Diann Brodnax called roll. A quorum was not seated.

III. Minutes

The October 23, 2008 minutes could not be approved since a quorum was not seated.

The March 13, 2007 missing minutes were found. A vote to accept the minutes will be held at the next meeting a quorum is seated.

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Committee: October 23, 2008.

The issue of students parking on the grass between phase IV CV and John Gray Center was raised and Dr. Simmons stated it was illegal to park on the grass and anyone parked there will be towed. Community events held at the John Gray Center has parking available in the Brook-Shivers parking lot.

Dr. Simmons is not sure when the road construction on Rolfe Christopher will be complete. There is too much traffic between the dorms now to open any through roads.

Mr. Ferguson responded to the concern with pay differences between campuses for the same job title. He said they use CUPA survey to compare budget, enrollment, staff/faculty ratio, and comparison in the southern region. It's hard to compare individual positions; they look at more broad comparisons.

The issues concerning more pay for new hires. Dr. Simmons said this is a universal practice and won't change.

Dr. Simmons and Mr. Ferguson feels donating gift cards for Hurricane Ike victims may not be the best answer to helping these folks. A gift card of 50\$ is all that the university can allow. Donating time and energy would be a better way to help the people that need it. Individual departments can raise money on their own to help someone in need with no limit on donation.

The 5% raise was an outcome from the Staff Senate meeting Dr. Simmons attended. He felt the raise would help with gas prices.

More dorms will be built as soon as the bond rates lower. Dr. Simmons stated there are 28 residence halls on campus.

Dr. Simmons wanted the Staff Senate to decide whether the employees want their salaries published on the web. Mr. Ferguson suggested not publishing, but make the reports available for viewing. You can find copies of the reports at the library or Mr. Ferguson's office.

Dr. Simmons feels Lamar University offers great insurance to the employees. He is pleased with that.

Bylaws Committee:

None

Community Service Committee:

Gail Martel – chair – held a meeting with Community Service committee. The committee decided to have a bake sale December 3-4, 2008 to raise money for the Hurricane Ike victims. The sales would help buy items these folks need. The committee would offer help with basic needs, clean up, or paint. A shower would be held in February 2009 to distribute the items. Jana Daigle, President Staff Senate, said the process needs to be presented to the Issues Committee to make sure everything was in order. Some senators felt it may be too late in February 2009 to help the folks impacted by Hurricane Ike.

Compensation and Budget:

None

Issues Committee:
None

Nominations Committee:
None

Staff Awards Committee:
None

V. Unfinished Business
None

VI. New Business

Stephanie Simmons raised an issue about how departments are notified when a student has passed away. A student that studied in their department was involved in an accident and they were not notified until later. She wanted to know if departments effected by a loss such as this could be notified. The FERPA issue was raised as a reason why departments may not be notified. Rebecca Bishop, visiting speaker, stated to her knowledge this was not a breach of FERPA but that each institution makes the decision how to share information with each department regarding the passing of a current student.

Steve Ford asked what impact the university will see as a result of the economic crisis our country is facing. He compared the crisis to the 1980's when the university operated on a 4-day week and conserved energy. Jana responded with a comment Dr. Simmons made saying there will not be a move to a 4-day work week at LU. Senator's reactions varied, some saying it would be up to endowments for the university, which the effects may not be seen until a year or so from now, and news articles stating university projects are on hold in most places due to the economy.

Senators raised issues with concerns over the Dental Plan offered to LU employees. The concerns were over the large amount of out-of-pocket cost for dental work. Another concern raised was the Vision Care provided with LU insurance plan. The plan does not offer much of a discount for eye wear or care.

VII. Good of the Order

Rebecca Bishop, Early Alert and Special Programs Coordinator for the STARS department, visited our meeting and presented information about the STARS program. She explained the services provided to students. Learning Engagement and Development component which offers a Learning Community, WINGS Mentoring Program, and African American Male Partnership Program. Another component within STARS offers a proactive, intrusive advising approach. They help student with issues and work with the student to develop learning and study skills. The department offers Academic Enhancement Workshops for students. Ms. Bishop announced they are always on the lookout for staff and faculty willing to present various workshops. They also offer a tutoring component and need tutors. They tutor any subject the student needs provided they have tutors. They accept referrals if you know someone that can tutor or a student that needs tutoring. The Early Alert Program is another component of STARS. Students with issues are referred to this department. A faculty member or staff member refers the student and STARS will work with that student to resolve the issues. The STARS department is located in the COMM building RM 109.

VIII. Adjournment

No motion was accepted without a quorum. Jana Daigle called the meeting closed at 10:47 a.m.

OPEN MEETING

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

**December 9, 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**