Staff Senate Minutes

July 14, 2003


ABSENT: Constance Alexander (excused), Kim Denton (excused), Tim Dills (excused), Corintha Duncan, Debbie Fanning (excused), JoAnn Fitzgerald, Linda Fore (excused), Charles Forrester (excused), David Jones (excused), Mary Jordan, Billie Lancaster, Pat Myrick (excused), Terry Nelson, Kathy Smith (excused), Sue Speer (sick leave), Reed Sturdivant, Valerie Swartz, Sue Taylor (excused), Kathy Thacker (excused), and Shirley White.

1. Vice President Steve Honaker presided during President Thacker’s (sick leave) absence and he called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed senators.

2. Ruth Verhegge from the University WOW (well on the way) Program. WOW promotes ways to a healthier and happier lifestyle for faculty and staff of East Tennessee State University. The WOW wellness competition has grown to include all of the university. Three years ago a pilot wellness program began where points (get credit for healthy lifestyle) were earned toward individual and team awards. Participants challenged themselves and other faculty/staff units across campus in friendly competitions. The goal of this program is to encourage and support life-style choices that can help prevent diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease and diabetes. Points were awarded for individual actions and for team efforts. Complaints about our Point Log forms were a problem. We think this is now fixed, plus it is much easier to use, and will be on-line beginning this fall (2003) semester (Dr. Verhegge demonstrated the online form), as a result the point log points can be submitted daily. Also our goal is to track positive health changes. It will not track you specifically but overall. There are four health areas where points may routinely be earned they are: nutrition and weight control, exercise and physical fitness, stress management, and tobacco control. We also want to add educational programs and faculty/staff to become a mentor/support for others. In addition, we are working to develop links on the web page for health related issues/seminars so there is a central point using many departments across campus. Hopefully, later on we would like to get commercial sponsorship. I got $168,00 grant funds to include other academic schools.

3. Senator Karen Hughes made a motion to approve the June 9th minutes. Senator Carolyn Bond seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Committee Reports

A. Staff Development and Evaluations Committee – no report

B. Staff Concerns & Grievances - Karen Hughes– There have been six members terminated because of their excessive absences we had one to appeal, Debbie Fanning. Discussion took place and it was approved that Senator Fanning be reinstated because her absences should have been excused.

C. Committee on Committees – no report

D. Elections Committee – ballots have been mailed out.

E. Blood Drive Committee – Betty Grice, Chair – A copy of the letter from American Red Cross was distributed. We had a good turn out we reached 83% of our goal. Most of our volunteers were walk-ins. Participation from senators was not representative well. We may want to look at changing the date because summer is hard to get people although I think summer was chosen because American Red Cross has less blood donated during the summer months. ARC done the computer work and we did not need as many volunteers as expected. One volunteer to sign in participates and one for refreshments was plenty.

6. Old Business – Senator Betty Grice distributed a draft from Faculty Senate regarding visiting with shut-ins. Discussion took place regarding the draft. Senator Grice made a motion to table the idea for a year and at that time take another look after Faculty Senate have the program completely established. Senator Carla Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. New Business – Senator Carolyn Hopson wanted to know about staff audit possibilities in light of the financial/budget cuts. Dr. Wayne Andrews said the departments have to fund dollars for staff. Money is no longer pooled for salaries. Reviews will start again after fall enrollments.

Senator Jane Jones told us of Mr. Ed Kelly’s (ETSU’s lawyer) brain tumor he is in the hospital and had emergency surgery Sunday night.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2003 in the Forum Room in the D.P. Culp Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted

BettyAnn Proffitt, Secretary