Staff Senate Minutes

August 14, 2006


ABSENT: Constance Alexander (excused), Kim Blevins (excused), Queen Brown, Jeanine Carroll (excused), Sharon Chandler (excused), Marcia Donnelson (excused), Denise Dunn, Kathy Smith (excused), Trish Stafford, Andre Stevens, Karen Sullivan (excused), Rita Taylor, Michael Vaughn

President Renee Couch called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES:  President Couch asked for approval to the minutes from the July meeting. With no correction to the minutes, Senator David Robinson made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Senator Terry Nelson.  The minutes were approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: No report since Senator Trillis McKee retired from the University. The books are with Senator Tim Dills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Staff Development and Evaluations: No report
B. Staff Concerns and Grievances: No report
C. Committee on Committees: All positions have been filled.
D. Elections Committee: Submitted by Senator Tim Dills. Monday, August 14th is the last day to submit ballots. The committee will meet on Friday, August 18th to count them. He introduced and welcomed Senator Cindy Canter to the Senate. She replaced Cindy Lybrand as representative from the College of Medicine.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. President Couch reported on the meeting of the Convocation Committee. The Committee met on August 10th with Dr. D.J. Jesse, Dr. Bishop and Dr. Dishner. The Staff Convocation will be modeled after the Faculty Convocation. The final meeting of the committee will be September 7th. President Stanton will give the State of the University speech. Senator Carla Warner mentioned they would like to have Staff that has retired last year to be recognized. Senator Lisa Blackburn, chairman of the Committee talked about the events that will be included in the Convocation. They are: Featured Employee of the Month;
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Distinguished Staff Awards; Recognition of Staff who received degrees during the past year; gathering pictures of Staff working on different activities in the community to be used in a PowerPoint presentation to be played as the Staff are coming into the Ballroom; like to have volunteers to help with serving of the food; handing out programs and to act as ushers. The refreshments will be served in Dining Room 3.

B. Senator Terry Nelson reported on the Staff ring. The Design department of Balfour Company has the design ready and the molds are poured. Met with the company last week. The lowest price of the ring will be $199.00. The design would be copyrighted to the Staff Senate only. Dr. Stanton approved the idea of payroll deduction. He is to talk with B.J. King about the payroll deduction. On the inside of the ring would have the Buccaneer and the department where you worked? Hope to have more information at the next meeting.

C. Senator Mike Vaughn was not present to talk about the website.

D. President Couch mentioned that she had asked Senator Carolyn Bond to look up the new amendments that would be added to the constitution. Senator Dills mentioned that Senator Kim Blevins would have a copy of the constitution on her computer.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Senator Charles Forrester made a motion that the Senate needed to look into the fact of requesting more money to fund the Staff Picnic, maybe to have the picnic funded in full instead of having the Staff to pay for any part of it. There was a lot of discussion concerning this. One of the comments was the fact that we needed to have more information concerning the number of people that attended and how much was taken in. President Couch mentioned that we might need to talk with Dr. Bishop to ask her how we should proceed with this matter, and then we might get a better deal with Aramark. Senator Joy Fulkerson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

B. Upcoming Events:

- Dr. Abraham Verghese: October 10th. Dr. Verghese practiced in Johnson City during the time that AIDS was discovered in Johnson City. The presentation would be in the Ballroom.

- Human Race Machine: week of November 6th – 10th. The machine would let you see what you would look like in a different race.
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- Ideas for next year's Guest Speakers: have someone from the Gray Fossil site to speak; Senator Joy Fulkerson proposed that the staff changed places with other staff members – put yourself in someone else’s shoes; have Staff Senate meetings in different locations; Joy mentioned also about having a calendar that was updated with the different opportunities that the Students and Staff could participate in; Awareness of the St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital; Senator Tom Hill maybe having someone from HR to discuss the educational benefits that are available to the Staff (how to fill out the different forms).

Senator Carla Warner mentioned about the upcoming Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28th. She will have a sign up sheet with the list of jobs at the next Staff Senate meeting.

Senator Sherri Renfro mentioned that she would like to see the Senators take a more active role in representing their department. To let their peers know what we are doing for them; maybe do a newsletter; and President Couch mentioned that anyone can attend the Staff Senate meetings. Senator Betty Ann Proffitt mentioned that she forwards the Staff Senator minutes to her fellow staff members.

Senator Betty Ann Proffitt made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Senator Corintha Duncan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, September 11, 2006 in Meeting Room 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Bond, Secretary