STAFF SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
November 8, 2010

Note to Senators: Please share the Senate agenda, minutes, and any other enclosures with your colleagues prior to the scheduled meeting. Senate meetings are open to all staff. Agendas, minutes, and attendance rosters are available on the Staff Senate website at http://www.etsu.edu/stsenate/default.asp


ABSENT: Excused; Christy Buckles, Tim Dills, Ann Eargle, Myra Jones, Paul Lavoie, Shea Renfro, Debbie Starnes, and Carla Warner.

I. Call to Order
Mr. Chuck Patton, President, called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

II. Welcome Special Guest – President Paul E. Stanton
Dr. Stanton commended Staff Senate for their efforts in the Holiday Food Drive and noted that even though this is a difficult time for everyone, it was clear where hearts are and is very thankful to everyone for their tremendous efforts. He noted that current state appropriations are down 33% or 20 million and stimulus offered only a temporary fix. The University lost approximately 120 faculty and staff at the end of June 2009, and current employees are picking up the extra work load without any additional income. Stimulus funding will end June 2011. The Strategic Budget Management Committee has done a great job in positioning the University where it needs to be for July 2011. He stated that he is not comfortable with the current situation and would like to see more money in employee pockets. There will be no bonus per in accordance with legislation due to the difficult budget restraints. At the President’s Quarterly Board Meeting, Dale Sims, Vice Chancellor, Business and Finance with TBR, reported that he is working on a salary augmentation for July 2011.

Dr. Stanton noted that there are four top priorities for the current year and next year as well:

1) Relocation of faculty and staff to Valleybrook Farm of which there are 144 acres available. University administration was originally approached in 1990 concerning the purchase of the farm for $28 million and the end result was the property being donated to the university last year. The property is state-of-the-art and is in move-in condition. The budget for maintenance and security of the facilities is $350,000.

2) Performing Arts Center – if a partnership can be identified, there is a possibility for building a center. The center initiative is currently on the TBR Capital Outlay List as #12 and has not moved in rank for three years, and has been on the drawing board since 1994. Dr. Stanton stated that there is a proposal with the Carnegie group concerning a land swap that may include a center in a future development.

3) Olympic Training Site – there is a 90% chance of an Olympic training site being identified on the university campus through the efforts of the Department of Kinesiology, Leisure and Sports Science, coaches, and Dr. Mike and Meg Stone. A site visit is currently being prepared. Weight lifting and cycling are the two sports being considered. Federal and international grants may be available.

4) Dental School is currently under review. We are the only college in the TBR system that has a health science division. Dr. Bishop is heading up an exploratory committee whose first charge is to determine if we need more dentists, look at the application pool and determine if there are practices willing to support. Need to make it affordable. If all answers are positive, will approach state for a dental school. Funding will be handled similar to the College of Pharmacy.
Dr. Stanton entertained questions from the Senate:

1) Has a decision been made as to who is being relocated to Valleybrook? Answer: There has been no final decision. We have asked for requests and received 28 ideas. The top five to ten may be carried out in January. Biology and Art (studio space) are two units that may be relocated.
2) Is there still talk concerning taking over the operations of the Millennium Centre? Answer: There are currently no plans. The Centre is operating at a loss.
3) Is the Mini Dome going to be torn down? Answer: There are currently no plans to tear down the dome. There are currently 101 classes being taught in the building as well as 68 office spaces.

III. Approval of Minutes - The minutes of October 11, 2010 were approved with minor edits and will be posted on the Staff Senate website.

IV. Staff President’s Report – President Chuck Patton

A. Staff Senate Portrait Session/Biography Template – President Patton reported that Jim Sledge will be taking photographs for our website of Senators in Meeting Room #2, and to feel free to filter in and out during the course of the meeting to have their picture made for our web site. He also inquired regarding questions concerning the Biography template – there were no questions.

B. Parking Initiative – Dr. David Collins addressed the parking initiative. Specifically he attempted to identify the real need and looking into the future concerning parking? Currently, we are gaining an average of 600 additional students per year and the fall semester there were usually anywhere between 100 to 150 parking spots open during the day. However with the continued expected growth in student population, he expects those numbers to diminish. A Committee has been formed to review the prospect of building a parking garage on the west side of campus. The parking garage will need SBC approval, financing through bonds, which must be disclosed to the legislation by January or February and be approved as part of the 2011-12 budget. The parking garage cannot be designed until it has been approved and the design will probably take up to a year. In addition, there is the possibility of including spaces for public safety and parking as well as a bookstore and/or food court. If faculty and staff are satisfied with the parking situation, this may be more of a student need? SGA is supporting a garage. Faculty Senate did not feel that they had enough information to vote. President Patton had ballots prepared and passed them out for Senators to vote. President Patton will calculate the votes and include the results in a document that he is preparing with the comments made by staff across campus and forward to Bill Rasnick, Associate VP of Facilities Management who is the chair of this committee.

C. UCW on Campus – President Patton talked with the President of United Campus Workers. Union dues would be $13.00 per month. He noted that members are 1,200 strong across TN. The labor union is new to TBR. Currently active in UT-Knoxville system. Their website has not been updated in five months. TSEA was mentioned but they are a lobbying unit not a union. Both groups must work with legislation. UCW Did not have any major achievements to mention.

V. Treasurer Report – Senator Booher reported that no expenditures have been recorded, $6,000 still available. Prior to the meeting, $1,703.33 had been deposited towards the Holiday Food drive and she had received several contributions during today’s meeting.

VI. Report on Standing Committees

A. Committee on Committees – Senator Warner, Chair, no report.

B. Communications and Website – In Senator Jones’ absence, President Patton noted that she had been making changes on the website and is asking for input from the Senate for creativity in updating the site.
C. **Liaison Committee** – Senator Batchelder, Chair, no report.

D. **Staff Concerns & Grievances** – Senator Keener, Chair, noted that there is no report at this time. However, she noted that there is a meeting scheduled to amend bylaws to make the number of absences equitable between appointed Senators and elected Senators.

E. **Staff Development and Evaluation** – Senator Renfro, Chair, no report. President Patton stated that a Co-chair was going to be named.

F. **Committee on Elections** – Senator Greenwell, Chair, no report.

G. **Visibility Committee** – Senator Hill, Chair, no report.

VII. **Report on Project Committees**

A. **Staff Awards Committee** – Senator Sullivan, Chair, stated that the committee has met and will present some ideas at the December meeting.

B. **Blood Drive** – Senator Booher, Chair, no report.

C. **Holiday Drive** – Senator Bond, Chair, noted that the final day for both monetary and food contributions is November 15th. The committee is scheduled to meet on November 16th at the CPA equipment room at 1:00 p.m. Assembling of boxes will begin on November 17 at 1:00 p.m. Local TV media, (WJHL), University relations, and the East Tennessean have been contacted. Distribution of the food will begin on November 18th and 19th. A sign-up sheet will be available for Senators volunteer to work during those two days to make sure that all the boxes are distributed.

D. **Staff Picnic** – Senator Cooper, Chair, noted that the committee met prior to today’s meeting and will identify a tentative date and time in an effort to secure a date on President Stanton’s calendar. She noted that she will review last year’s event to determine number of attendees and funds required for the picnic.

VIII. **Old Business** – There was no old business to discuss.

IX. **New Business** – There was no new business to discuss.

X. **Open Floor for New Agenda Items/Concerns** – None.

XI. **Announcements** – President Patton reported that Teresa Williams will be coming as a special guest for our December meeting to speak on the Student Complaint Policy Implementation. Also in the upcoming year, Lisa Moffitt from Tennessee State Employee Association, and Marla Hayman from Human Resources will be coming to speak.

**Adjournment** – There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Margaret W. Pate
Member at Large

~ Next meeting ~
December 14, 2010, 2:30pm
D. P. Culp Auditorium, Forum