STAFF SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
December 14, 2015

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


FRIENDS OF THE SENATE: None

EXCUSED: Gwen Bays, Lisa Bell, Lisa Booher, Chris Collins, Charvi Greer, Jess Helton, Helen Jones, Chris Loveday, Pam Marston, Butch Massey, Lisa Rowland, and Josh Whitlock.

UNEXCUSED: Sean Hoyle, Katie Jeter, John Lane, Dianne Pittarese, Debra Roberson, Rita Taylor, Cynthia Weaver

I. Call to Order – Vice President Murphy called the meeting to order at 2:32p.m. in the Forum Room of the D P Culp Center.

II. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Senator David Robinson to approve the minutes, and Senator Libby Tipton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Guest Speakers – Lee Ann Davis & Stacy Onks – Lee Ann Davis spoke on the new Alumni Mentoring Program. This is a partnership between Alumni, University Advisement Center, Office of Equity and Diversity & University Career Services. The hope is that this program will give guidance and help to student during their academic career and their professional life after graduation. This mentoring program will pair students with a real life person who has faced similar problems and or situations and will also give them an opportunity to share their wisdom about life beyond ETSU. The Alumni Mentor Program is an opportunity for students to form rewarding and mutually beneficial relationships with alumni in their areas of study or career interest. Mentors can assist students with information and tips on topics such as:

- Guidance on study habits, time-management strategies and post-undergraduate school planning
- General career advice, job shadowing, résumé critiques, and interviewing skill development
- Encouragement to students with undeclared majors to stay in school
- Networking opportunities
- Professional etiquette
- Inspiring excellence

To date there has been about 50 people sign up. We have found that most are first generation, minority, or economically disadvantaged students and they want to look for those type students to assist b/c that is what they were and they had a great ETSU experience. Lee Ann also shared a couple of things that have been written from alumni. This program is not based only for local alumni. It is for alumni world wide! Various ways of communication are possible to assist our students. Face to face contact could be via Skype, if distance is an issue, email or text exchanges, and phone contact are all possibilities. We ask that you commit to the “relationship” for one year or one academic year. To become a mentor or for more information, view the online site at http://www.etsualumni.org/s/974/interior-template.aspx?sid=974&gid=1&pgid=2062, or contact the ETSU National Alumni Association at (423) 439-4218 or email alumni@etsu.edu.

IV. President’s Report – Vice President Stefanie Murphy – There was no Interim University Council meeting in November. The Holiday Food Drive went well. We were able to provide Food City gift cards and food bags for 230 families. Thank you to everyone that was able to help. We were also able to help with four Christmas angels this year. The most relevant news is that the TBR will be focusing on Community College governance and the universities will have more flexibility. This has the potential for several opportunities and challenges for many different groups across campus. At this time though, there is not a time-table for universities to move toward independent, local advisory boards. The new roles of TBR and THEC have not been specified
either. I encourage everyone to be cognizant of the potential challenges, but to seek out the opportunities as they arise. The joint Engineering program with Tennessee Tech approved and will move along to THEC as well as the Masters in Sports & Leisure program. The agenda for the next Legislative meeting will be discussing guns on campus, funding for Diversity issues and initiatives, and also full funding for the Lamb Hall renovation has been recommended by THEC. At the IUC meeting this morning, Dr. Noland provided a history on governance all related to the Focus Act, it is important that we continue to operate business as usual right now under TBR, but be mindful of how in the future things may or may not be impacted by a local governance. There will be more information will be forthcoming and we move toward local governance. The other thing is that if you receive any type of open records requests, all those must go through Joe Smith (439-4317 or smithje@etsu.edu) Please keep in mind that anything you put in an email or your personal texts could be requested.

V. Treasurer Report—Senator Dills reported the general account balance as $7,421.91; the Holiday Drive account balance as $810.03; and the balance of the Community Benevolence account holds a balance of $4,681.25. During the holiday drive $3,406.00 was received in donations. $2,800.00 was then spent on gift cards.

VI. Report on Standing Committees None.

VII. Report on Project Committees None.

XII. Old Business
- Senator Murphy noted that everyone should have received via email an updated document of the By-laws and Constitution. She stated that if you felt you had not been given sufficient time to review the documents we could table this issue until January, or we can accept all the proposed changes as one for the bylaws with discussion and vote. Senator Eargle made the motion to table them due to time limits. So, for clarification at the January meeting we will begin discussion and go through each amendment of the By-laws to prepare for a vote. The changes to the Constitution must be voted on by the entire ETSU staff.

XIII. New Business None.

IX Announcements None.

XII. Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 2:51.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Senator Robinson and seconded by Senator Massey.