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/staffsenate/

PRESENT: Constance Alexander, Lisa Blackburn, Carolyn Bond, Sarah Bradford, Angela Brewer, Queen Brown, Deanna Bryant, Cindy Canter, David Collins, Phyllis Cooper, Tim Dills, Corintha Duncan, Charles Forrester, Joy Fulkerson, Linda Greenwell, Angela Haire, Thomas Hill, Myra Jones, Janet Keener, Paul Lavoie, Linda Lett, Susan Lilly, Diana McClay, Joe Miller, Stephanie Nave, Margaret Pate, Chuck Patton, Betty Ann Proffitt, Shea Renfro, Wanda Richardson, Sharon Riddle, Billy Robinson, David Robinson, Sue Russell, Jamie Simmons, Debbie Starnes, Karen Sullivan, Carla Warner

ABSENT: James Batchelder (excused), Kathy Carder (excused), Candy Massey (excused), Donna Murphy (excused), Patricia Stafford (excused), Andre Stevens (excused)

The meeting was called to order by President Jamie Simmons at 2:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: President Simmons welcomed Dr. David Collins to speak about the upcoming budget issues. In July 2008, we were facing a 5.8% decrease in our appropriations. For the next year, an additional reduction of 19.5% was identified, which totaled to a 25.4% reduction in appropriations. With the federal stimulus dollars, all appropriations were made whole back to the July budget. The Budget Task Force was established with the responsibility to come up with a three year plan, so that the University would be in balance with the 15.4% reduction when the stimulus funds end in 2010-11. Due to the 5% fee increase that occurred for 09-10 and 11-12, the 2% increase in enrollment and to the voluntary buyouts, the University is currently in balance.

The University is facing additional reductions of 6% and 9%. In 2011-2012, we are looking at an additional reduction of 7.5%, which is equivalent to 3.6 million dollars. In 2010-2011, we would be made whole with one time MOE dollars (state), but that would be an additional 3.6 million dollars we would have to reduce prior to going into 2011-12. To counterbalance this, the university will need to reduce the budget further or increase the fee above the 5% that we already have in the plan. If state finances continue to go down, we could be hit with more reductions. That will put us up to around 33% in reductions.

Senator D. Robinson reported the Faculty Senate’s discussion about change in the way higher education is funded. Senator D. Robinson asked if there would be any kind of changes this year in the general structure of Higher Education in the state with it being an election year. Dr. Collins responded by stating they have been looking at changing the formula, and they give us what they want.

Senator Patton asked if the lottery scholarship would affect future enrollment if people didn’t buy tickets. Dr. Collins reported that enrollment is based on a lot of things; such as funding, scholarships and loans. Our enrollment was up 6%. Enrollment increases
when the economy is down and decreases as the economy rises, so it will probably have an effect.

Senator Bradford asked if there would be higher tuition fees for those students entering into the Health Profession. Dr. Collins stated that it could be a possibility, as they requested fee increases for next year. The Board would probably try to address this issue in March. They already have an additional nursing class fee, the same as they have in business and digital media.

Dr. Collins reported the task force is still meeting. The web page is still available, so if you have any cost suggestions, please contact them.

Senator Sullivan asked Dr. Collins if he knew anything about the plans for the Centennial. He said that he did not, but Fred Sauceman was overseeing the Centennial plans. He said that Mr. Sauceman had sent out an email concerning the development of a new logo. Senator Blackburn said that she received a reservation for a Centennial concert that is planned for October 12 and 13, 2010. Senator Fulkerson reported a planning team had been put together that hadn’t been announced, and there would be plenty of opportunity for sub groups.

Dr. Collins reminded everyone about the University’s green initiative and to sign up to receive your W2 electronically.

MINUTES: Senator Blackburn stated she had corrections of the November 9th minutes. They are as follows: Under Guest Speaker, Aramark – Andrea Crawford mentions that a simplified menu and a value menu had been added not a dollar menu. Under Staff Concerns and Grievances – Vernon Bradley’s name was misspelled. Also Randy Wykoff’s name was misspelled. Senator Lilly made the motion to accept the amended minutes. Motion seconded by Senator Lett. November 9th minutes were approved as amended.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Senator Debbie Starnes reported a balance of $5,428.41 in the operating budget. The only purchase has been $92.91 for supplies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- Staff Development and Evaluations: No report
- Committee on Committees: No report
- Staff Concerns and Grievances: No Report
- Committee on Elections: No report
- Holiday Drive Committee: 23 Little Bucs children were adopted. We provided a full Christmas for three children and supplemented the Christmas presents for 20 Little Bucs children by providing clothes, coats and shoes. Christmas was provided for 15 senior citizens, and undisclosed personnel on medical leave were issued gift cards for Christmas.
- Staff Picnic Committee: The date is set for Friday, June 4, 2010. The same menu as last year, of hamburgers/hotdogs has been chosen.
- Blood Drive: No Report.
- Website Committee: No report.
- Committee for Review of Staff Awards Process: Talked to Foundation representatives about possibly adding another staff award. Unfortunately, with the budget situation, they are unable to add anything at this time.
OLD BUSINESS

- Insurance Premiums - Dr. Collins reminded everyone of the insurance holiday for December and January and asked if everyone understood. You will not have to pay your insurance premiums for those two months. Depending upon what type of insurance you have will determine the extra money you will receive.
- Staff Convocation: President Simmons state she appreciates everyone that helped with the convocation and has brochures and starfish cards left over it you need some to send out to people who couldn’t attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- Inclement Weather Policy – There has only been one change for this year. In the policy, Dr. Stanton has always had the option of delaying the opening of the University but he never used that option. We were either open or closed. This year there will be the option of delaying the opening and delayed times are set due to class start times. This information will also be on the ETSU alert page or you can also listen to WETS-FM (89.5). There is a new brochure there will be sent out in January. Due to problems with text messaging, the University is no longer sending out text messages. The University is working with Rave Wireless to help with text messaging since they can get things through that ETSU can’t due to spam filters.
- Interest in Staff Senate recognition at the February 12 Basketball game against Kennesaw State – President Simmons asked if the Staff Senate would be interested in going to a ballgame and being recognized. They may not be able to recognize us at this game. She would have to check and get back to us.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS/CONCERNS

- Senator Bond proposed we set up a committee for Staff Convocation. This would be similar to the Holiday Drive Committee or the Picnic Committee. President Simmons stated we would address this at the next senate meeting. It was suggested the incoming and outgoing exec board should be on the committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Simmons recognized Senator Duncan for 25 years of service, Senator B. Robinson with 15 years of service and Senator Russell with 15 years of service at ETSU.
- Senator Keener announced Candy Massey’s father-in-law passed away earlier in the day.

There being no further business, Senator Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by the majority of the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Brewer
Secretary

The next meeting is Monday, January 11, 2009 @2:30 pm
Forum Room, DP Culp Center

Please send notices of non-attendance to brewera@etsu.edu and agenda items to simmons@etsu.edu