STAFF SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
George L. Carter Train Museum
March 8, 2010
2:30 PM

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: Lisa Blackburn, Carolyn Bond, Sarah Bradford, Angela Brewer, Cindy Canter, Kathy Carder, David Collins, Phyllis Cooper, Charles Forrester, Joy Fulkerson, Crystal Gilland, Linda Greenwell, Angela Haire, Thomas Hill, Janet Keener, Paul Lavoie, Susan Lilly, Candy Massey, Joe Miller, Donna Murphy, Margaret Pate, Chuck Patton, Sharon Riddle, David Robinson, Rob Russell, Sue Russell, Jamie Simmons, Patricia Stafford, Andre Stevens, Debbie Starnes, Karen Sullivan

ABSENT: Constance Alexander (excused), James Batchelder (excused), Queen Brown (excused), Deanna Bryant (excused), Tim Dills (excused), Corintha Duncan (excused), Myra Jones (excused), Linda Lett (excused), Diana McClay (excused), Stephanie Nave (excused), Betty Ann Proffitt (excused), Shea Renfro (excused), Wanda Richardson (excused), Billy Robinson (excused), Carla Warner (excused)

While Senators were arriving, we took a tour of the Train Museum. The meeting was called to order by President Jamie Simmons at approximately 2:45 p.m.

MINUTES: Before the meeting Dr. Collins noted a correction in the February minutes. Under New Business, ARA stimulus money should have been recorded as ARRA stimulus money. Correction has been made to February 8th minutes. Senator P. Lavoie made the motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2010. Motion seconded by Senator S. Lilly. The minutes were approved as distributed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Senator Debbie Starnes reported a balance of $5,428.41 in the operating budget. There were no expenditures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- Staff Development and Evaluations: No report
- Committee on Committees: No report
- Staff Concerns and Grievances: Senator Keener reported an issue on the inclement weather policy. She checked with HR for clarification and the rule is if you have requested leave and there is an early closing or a delayed opening, you must take your leave as planned because you have already been approved for an altered schedule. This has always been the policy and is from TBR. Some supervisors may destroy the leave form and let their employees take the emergency leave. That is not the policy but it does happen and there is no way to track who is not following policy.
- Committee on Elections: Linda Greenwell reported Corintha Duncan has resigned her position as a Senator and Rob Russell would be filling her senate position and will serve the remainder of her term. President Simmons welcomed Rob Russell to the senate.
• **Holiday Drive Committee:** No report

• **Staff Picnic Committee:** Senator S. Russell reported a meeting has been scheduled with Aramark to go over the menu and cost. If your name is not on the list and you know of somewhere to solicit a prize please do so. Get the donating organization’s information and a formal thank you will be sent to them. Keep the prizes when you get them and we will discuss at our next meeting. Let President Simmons know if you need letterhead, envelopes or stamps and she will get them to you.

• **Blood Drive:** Senator Bradford reported they had a meeting after the last Staff Senate meeting in which they met with a representative with the American Red Cross. They now have a time frame of what they need to do and when it needs to be done. Please encourage everyone you know to come out and give blood in June. President Simmons stated the University has agreed to use Marsh Blood Bank instead of the American Red Cross because Marsh keeps their blood locally and doesn’t sell it out like American Red Cross. President Simmons talked with Dr. Stanton about fulfilling our commitments with American Red Cross but stated we would use Marsh in the future. Dr. Stanton was fine with us fulfilling our commitments to the Red Cross.

• **Website Committee:** No report.

• **Visibility Committee:** Senator Pate reported they sent an email asking about the proposed lunches. They wanted to know how many times you thought someone from staff senate should be at the cafeteria for lunch. Should someone be there twice a week, three times a week, etc… They would do a sign up sheet for everyone to choose when they could participate in the lunches. President Simmons stated lunch was just an option. The idea is for Staff Senate to be visible so staff can see we are available and working for them.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• President Simmons received an email from Facilities regarding the start of a new committee – Improved Campus Access Committee – This committee will evaluate campus access as it relates to pedestrians, bicycles and public transportation. They will review and meet over a six month period and are asking for a representative from Staff Senate to volunteer to be on the committee. President Simmons will forward the email with all the information if you would like to volunteer for this committee.

• There was also an email from Ramona Williams regarding the Department of Education reporting ETSU will have a significant reduction in the amount of funds for Federal Work Study students. President Simmons has volunteered to represent the Staff Senate on this committee and will keep everyone informed.

• **Office Cleanup Days** – Everyone should have received an email regarding this. Please remind those in your areas.

• Senator D. Robinson updated the senate on eWaste. They have been working with the College of Medicine and the VA on this project. The VA has provided building 16 on the VA campus to store eWaste in. They are currently waiting on a letter of understanding from Apple. Apple takes care of the eWaste days in the summer and has agreed to send a truck to pick up eWaste at no cost to us. Hopefully they can begin accepting eWaste within the next month. They not only will accept from ETSU but also from local schools, businesses and ETSU employees/individuals.

• **Wellness Committee** – “Walk Around the World” starts March 15. Anyone interested please sign up.
Senator Bond suggested sending a congratulations letter to the men’s and women’s basketball teams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Simmons introduced Theresa Burchett from the Reece Museum. She has invited Staff Senate to the museum for our May meeting. On display will be a couple of regional art exhibits as well as the permanent regional music exhibit. Since the museum is closed on Mondays, she would like to break us up in groups and take us behind the scenes so we can see what they have been working on.

There being no further business, Senator D. Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Senator J. Miller.

GEORGE L. CARTER TRAIN MUSEUM – JIM PAHRI

President Simmons introduced Jim Pahris who has been with the train museum for six years to give us more information on the museum. The big H.O. layout as it is known has been around for 20 -25 years. When it started out they were known as the Mountain Empire Modular Rail Road Club and in order to become a member you had to have a module which was anywhere from 4 – 8 feet sections. Things changed and they are now known as the Mountain Empire Model Rail Road Club. The museum currently has three layouts. The big H.O. layout portrays Appalachia and measures approximately 25x45 and they are getting ready to build an operating yard into the center of it. What you see in the center will become the storage yard and will be shifted to one side.

The N scale layout or the Knoxville Skyline was given to the university about three and a half years ago by a lady whose husband had passed away and worked as any engineer in Knoxville. He was an artist and very detailed at putting this skyline together.

The G scale layout which is the lumber mill came from Elizabethton. A Johnson City attorney purchased it from a widow and donated it to the museum.

Another layout going in soon is the Ken Marsh room and will portray East Tennessee and Western North Carolina known as the Tweetsie Rail Road.

The Museum is open from 10 – 3 on Saturdays. If you drive by and the RR Crossing sign is flashing, the Museum is open.

If you or someone you know has worked for the railroad or has any memorabilia you would like to donate, the museum would love the opportunity to display the items.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Brewer
Secretary

The next meeting is Monday, April 12, 2010 @2:30 pm
D.P. Culp Forum

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