STAFF SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
February 8, 2016

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: Kristy Buchanan, Chris Collins, Katie Jeter, Chris Loveday, Candy Massey and Evelyn Roach

UNEXCUSED: Barbara Chamberlain, Carshonda Harris, John Lane, Pam Marston, Butch Massey, Brandi Nave, Cynthia Weaver and Connie Wyche

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 Helen Jones to approve the minutes, and Senator David Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. President’s Report - The IUC met this morning. In the President’s report, Dr. Noland discussed the FOCUS bill that the Staff Senate received a copy of prior to this meeting. The governance structure set out is one board for community colleges and six local boards for the universities. The Faculty Senate President has established an ad hoc committee to address faculty concerns about a local governing board.

There was discussion about the board composition. The SGA President would serve on the board, as well as a designee from the Faculty Senate. Because administrators would be responsible to the board, Staff Senate representation was not requested.

The President discussed the Governor’s budget. It is a positive budget for higher education. $2 million in capital funding will be dedicated to water remediation issues. Lamb Hall renovations were not included for this year. An unrestricted pool of money has been approved for Drive to 55 funding. ETSU main campus will have a $2.8 million pool of operating and salary funds (combined).

The split of the funds has not yet been determined.

Legislation has been introduced to cap tuition and fees until 2018, with a CPI increase afterwards. This would have a negative impact on higher education. The Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy was presented as an example of how such a cap could really hurt education in our area.

University of Tennessee issues are coloring many higher education issues in the state. Bills affecting diversity, free speech, and guns on campus are going to be addressed in this session. This session will wrap up in April, and the main issues for higher education are budget, salary, fee caps, and FOCUS.

David Gregory is the acting Chancellor since John Morgan retired at the end of January.

The university is looking at requiring freshmen to live on-campus and to have a meal plan. This would affect freshmen only. Retention research says this boosts retention and graduation rates.
Privatization of building management was asked about. The governor will wrap up his due diligence process by the end of the month. Building management was the single largest expense outside of salary. The President expects to opt out of outsourcing unless there is an extraordinary circumstance. The President commended the efficiency of building and grounds maintenance at ETSU and stated that you can’t put a price tag on pride.

The Provost gave an update on Summer School. The schedule for summer school will follow the normal sessions that the university has adhered to with the exception of 2014. There is no proposal for an alternative pay plan for faculty.

Dr. Hoff and Dr. Dixon gave an update on the Strategic Planning process. SWOT analyses will be completed for faculty, staff, and students by the end of this month. Another survey to the whole campus will be sent out at the end of the month for one more collection of input.

Dr. Wykoff presented on a plan to expand the number of awards that the College of Public Health gives to their faculty and staff. The Faculty Senate President, Dr. Foley, commented on the use of monetary incentives to motivate people, and cautioned that the proposal could demoralize those that do not get nominated or receive awards. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences noted that his college attempted such an award process several years ago and they found evidence for Dr. Foley’s comments. Staff Senate President Whitlock cautioned that a demoralizing affect may be encountered by those employees in other colleges that see the awards that the College of Public Health gives.

**IV. Treasurer Report** - Senator Rowland reported the following:

1. General account balance as $7,290.53; expensed $131.38 for thumb drive for secretarial/treasurer information.
2. The Holiday Drive account balance as $211.13; expensed $598.90 for Angel trees.
3. The balance of the Community Benevolence account holds a balance of $4,481.25; expensed $200.00 to Cynthia Ramsey.

**V. Report on Standing Committees**

1. **Senator Burton reported from the Staff Awards Committee:** The committee will be meeting on March 3 at 3:00 pm to begin processes needed for Staff Awards this year to be presented at the Staff Picnic on May 19. The meeting will be in the: Faculty/Staff Conference Room. We will set the date for the nomination windows for the individual EEOC Awards and discuss the Career Award for the 2015/2016 year. Due to changes in presentation from Convocation to Picnic there will not be a new Career Award this year. Committee needs to make some decisions regarding how to handle. Also, we have a couple of resignations from the committee due to job position changes & responsibilities and we welcome new members.
2. **President Whitlock reported on the Website Committee:** He had spoken with Senator Chamberlain and requested access to the Staff Senate site for himself, Senator Hoyle and Senator Tocci so that updates could be made. President Whitlock has worked on the site and is making various updates. His is in the process of getting pictures of everyone to go on the site as well. One reason for getting all updates complete is that the Blue / Gold Digest will be posting direct links to our webpage.
3. **President Whitlock reported on the Elections Committee:** President Whitlock wanted to thank everyone for their diligent work on reading through and making all needed amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution. The Constitution will be going out for a vote from the whole staff of ETSU within the next week.
4. **President Whitlock reported on the Liaison Committee:** Everyone should have received via email the most recent report regarding the Faculty Senate Meeting on 1/25/16. In which they are trying to brainstorm ideas before new policies are put into place. Faculty Senate is sending any concerns they might have via email to Virginia Foley, President. Senator France ask if Staff Senate want to do the same thing? Some examples include flexibility IT development, individuals with “deep” pockets being on the board, individuals with appropriate knowledge of ETSU and how we are governed.
Other concerns from faculty were that we are getting a football stadium but yet some classrooms do not have projectors, concerned that some of the local community colleges have better equipment than our classrooms, who is appointed to the University Council i.e. TBR employee, money for capital projects, various fees and funding, ACT testing results, etc. Senator Jones and others spoke briefly about concerns for the recent change to Richo copiers. President Whitlock stated if anyone has any additional concerns, please email them to him.

VI. Report on Project Committees
1. Picnic Committee. Senator Kristin France has been named the Co-chair of the committee.

XII. Old Business. None.

XIII. New Business
1. President Whitlock asked if we were ambivalent towards a local governing board? What were our fears, concerns, etc. before the SWOT analyses. Does anyone really listen? Maybe now is the time to voice our opinions for future policies. Lots of discussion followed. Please keep in mind, this legislation has not passed yet. However, it is likely to. President Whitlock will compile our concerns and present them to Dr. Noland at the next Executive Committee meeting.

IX. Announcements
1. President Whitlock will be getting updated photos for our website from ID Services. If you do not like the current photo please let Senator Rowland or President Whitlock know. President Whitlock wants to get our photos on the website within the next week.
2. Please sign the sympathy card for Dr. Collins on your way out.

XII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:49m. Motion to adjourn was made by Senator Robinson and seconded by Senator Sullivan.

Submitted by Senator Kristi Smith

____________________________
Secretary