STAFF SENATE MEETING
MINUTES
January 12, 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: Vanessa Canter


UNEXCUSED: Barbara Chamberlain, David Collins and Jennifer Rice

I. Call to Order – President Josh Whitlock called the meeting to order at 2:34pm.

II. Approval of Minutes – Minutes were read and approved.

III. President’s Report – President Josh Whitlock

- Applications and spring enrollment is slightly down from this time last year by about 1%.
- Ed Kelly mentioned there is a National Adjunct Faculty Walk-Out Day on February 25. Adjunct professors are often the lifeblood of higher education institutions. But those professors say the lack of pay and benefits for their work is creating an academic underclass. Since adjuncts are paid by the class, and are allowed to teach only three to four classes per semester, they can’t make much of a living on that salary alone. Fear is the adjunct faculty will not show up for classes which in turn will cause students to leave and therefore will have a ripple effect on their education. This does not seem to be getting a lot of support on our campus, but it is a national event.
- Finance and Administration had undergone their regular state audit and no findings were found. Dr. Collins is very proud and thankful for the job his staff and their departments are doing.
- Renovations in the ARC are almost complete, with the addition of 13 advisors.
- Flu precautions. If you feel sick, or you think you have the flu... please take a sick day and stay home, rather than coming in and spreading germs!
- Royall & Company has been hired as the new company assisting us with new applications for enrollment. Over 300 applications were received the first day we went “live.”
- As a follow up from the Presidents Retreat, President Whitlock stated
  - We have a communication problem, campus wide. The information is not getting out. Dr. Noland stated he was only one person and he could not get the word out alone. He needs all of us as staff to work together and communicate.
  - January 30th is the State of the University Address in Brown Hall.
  - February 17 there will be a Staff Forum. More details to come.
Update from Adhoc Committee on Vision and Aspirations. The outcome will depend on the Strategic Plan being compiled by the Administrative Structures Review Committee, Budget Committee and the Academic Program Review. That is to have a small number of priorities to filter that down to the organizational unit at each college to let them come up with their own visions and aspirations and the priorities need to be measurable.

- How do we make ETSU a destination school? Focus on what makes the university unique. Health Sciences: College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Public Health. We also have Bluegrass and Storytelling programs. Talks will continue about how we can move forward.
- Dr. Noland will unveil his plan for the restructuring of OIT in mid February.
- Update on Freedom Hall & the basketball program. The new lighting seems to be fantastic.
- Update from Dr. Sherlin regarding Gender Violence Prevention. On January 25th Jackson Katz, Ph.D., who is an educator, author and internationally acclaimed lecturer and is a pioneer in the fields of gender violence prevention education and critical media literacy will speak at the Culp Auditorium. This past Fall, the university started reporting on sexual assaults on campus. It’s not the assaults have increased, we have just changed our reporting standards to hopefully make everyone aware and prevent those kinds of assaults in the future. We are a very safe campus, just being more transparent.

IV. Treasurer Report – Senator C. Massey reported the general account balance as $7,109.80; the Holiday Drive account balance as $204.03; and the balance of the Community Benevolence account holds a balance of $4,481.25.

V. Report on Standing Committees

- **Committee on Committees** – Senator Murphy reported that there are currently 3 positions open on the Sick Bank Committee. They have received very good nominations and hope to end the selection process by January 23.
- **Committee on Elections** – No report
- **Communications and Website** – No report
- **Community Benevolence Committee (CBC)** – No report
- **Liaison Committee** – No report
- **Staff Awards** – No report
- **Staff Concerns** – No report
- **Staff Development and Evaluation** – No report
- **Visibility** – No report

VI. Report on Project Committees

- **Blood Drive** – No report
- **Staff Picnic** – No report
- **Holiday Drive** – No report
- **Convocation** – Committee will meet on the 27th to start planning.
- **Bylaws / Constitution** – Senator Murphy stated that the constitution and by-laws revisions are being postponed until February's meeting due to the committee not being able to meet to discuss the feedback received from the Senate due to the holidays.

VII. **Old Business** - None

VIII. **New Business** - None

IX. **Announcements** – Senator David Smith stated that Human Resources had received a nomination to feature the Adjunct Faculty as the Featured Employee of the Month. Currently adjuncts are being contacted to meet for a group picture at the Bell Tower and a story will be forthcoming. Plans are to have the employee recognition feature up on the website in February to hopefully offset the Adjunct Walk-Out day. Senator Smith asked that
if you work with Adjunct please let them know of this opportunity. There are currently around 300 adjunct faculty members on payroll which equates to about 1/5 of our faculty.

X. **Adjournment** – There being no other business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Submitted by Senator Kristi Smith

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Secretary