



STAFF SENATE

Wednesday, October 5, 2016
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Collins called the Tech Staff Senate to order on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 202 of Baswell Techionery.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present:

Sandra Anderson
Brandi Collins
Pam Cooper
Shawna Davis
Rhonda Fleming
Lindelle Fraser
Amanda Handley
Tiffany Henry
James Higgs

Danny Jones
Margie Link
Annie McNeely
Jeff Mumert
Julia Pope
Lindsey Riedmueller
Ryan Taylor
Roger Trusty
Bettye Williamson

Senators Absent:

Brittany Flippo
Jeff Nichols

Visitor(s):

On October 5, 2016, the minutes from the September 7, 2016 meeting were distributed electronically and approved as corrected.

NEW BUSINESS

Anonymous Complaint Concerning Third Party Bid for Bookstore Services

An anonymous complaint was submitted regarding a third party bid for bookstore services on the Procurement website. The concern stems from an uncertain future for the current staff if a third party assumes this role on campus. The official statement is as follows: The Administration is currently looking into options for the future of the Tech Bookstore. These options include leasing the store or keeping it university owned. When a decision is made, the university community will be notified and address any concerns at that time.

Child Educational Activity Leave

An anonymous staff member requested the senate look into providing eight hours of family leave for staff that do not have school-aged children. Leave for children's



NEW BUSINESS (continued)

educational activities is state mandated. Staff members with children using leave for reasons outside of educational activities must use sick leave and/or vacation leave.

Parking Lot Closures

Complaints have been received in regard to the dissemination of information concerning lot closures. President Collins will reach out to Brian Lasey, Director of Physical Plant, and Josh McMillian, Chief of Public Safety, to request advance notice of lot closures be sent to University Relations.

OLD BUSINESS

Unused Sick Leave

Thomas Pennington, University Counsel, provided the senate with a proposal for unused sick leave along with a copy of the Arkansas statute governing compensation for unused sick leave of non-classified employees of state supported institutions of higher education (ACA § 21-4-501). Per the statute, state-supported universities are allowed discretion as to whether or not to permit non-classified employees to receive unused sick leave payout upon retirement. Mr. Pennington asked the senate to research policies of peer institutions within the state and to decide whether or not the group wishes to proceed with requesting a policy change that includes payment for sick leave for non-classified employees. Senators Link and Davis volunteered to research peer institution policies. The senate voted via email after the May 2016 meeting to proceed with a request to extend sick leave payout to non-classified employees upon retirement.

Safety Concerns

President Collins has followed up on the safety concerns from the August 2016 meeting with Josh McMillian, Chief of Campus Security, and Heath Whorton, University Emergency Manager. Chief McMillian and Mr. Whorton have not provided updates at this time.

Tech Fit Facilities

Senator Cooper gave an update on the women's locker room facilities in Hull. Per Senator Cooper, shower curtains have been replaced and overall cleanliness of the facilities has improved. At this time, ventilation remains an issue. President Collins will forward the request for ventilation to Administration and Finance.

Complaint about Water Quality in Brown Building

Senator Fleming has reached out to Galen Rounsaville, University Construction Manager, concerning the addition of a filtered water bottle fill station in the building and is awaiting his response. She will follow up with Mr. Rounsaville before the November meeting.



OLD BUSINESS (continued)

Senate Election

The following areas have open seats up for the upcoming election:

- 1 Registrar/Admissions
- 1 Alumni/Athletics/President's Office
- 1 Academic Affairs
- 2 Facilities Management
- 2 At-Large

Nominations should be submitted to the current vice president, Bettye Williamson. President Collins anticipates having the Blackboard shell available for online voting later this month. Paper ballots will be available with Vice President Williamson at the Physical Plant. All candidates are invited to send a photo and biographical information to the current secretary, Lindelle Fraser. Email announcements concerning the election will be sent out soon via email. Senator Jones asked if information could be broadcast on the digital signage stations across campus. President Collins will ask if this request can be fulfilled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bowen has requested staff members contact state legislators in support of the Career Service Pay Plan recommended for the State of Arkansas. Senator Henry asked if staff members were permitted to use their ATU email to draft and send letters to members of the state legislature. President Collins did not foresee any objections as this request came directly from Dr. Bowen. For a list of state representatives, please visit: <http://www.arkansashouse.org/member>. For a list of state senators, please visit: <http://www.arkansas.gov/senate/senators.html>.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Baswell Techionery, Room 202.

ADJOURNMENT

President Collins adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindelle Fraser, Secretary

