



STAFF SENATE

Wednesday, February 1, 2017
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Fraser called the Tech Staff Senate to order on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Baz Tech 204.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present:

Rachel Alexander
Sandra Anderson
Brandi Collins
Pam Cooper
Shawna Davis
Andrea Eubanks
Rhonda Fleming
Brittany Flippo

Lindelle Fraser
Tiffany Henry
James Higgs
Margie Link
Jeff Nichols
Julia Pope
Heather Taylor
Bettye Williamson

Senators Absent:

Tammy Guarino
Brittany Martin

Annie McNeely
Jeff Mumert

Visitor(s):

Stacie Harden, Ozark Campus Representative

On February 1, 2017, the minutes from the January 4, 2017 meeting were distributed electronically and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator McNeely has accepted an advisor position with the Upward Bound Math and Science Program. President Fraser indicated that Senator McNeely has agreed to keep her position on Staff Senate as a representative for Academic Affairs, and all Staff Senate members unanimously agreed.

Per a phone call with Brooke Southard, Interim Director of Human Resources, President Fraser indicated that the new registry hire for Interim Director of Human Resources, Mr. Bruce Curl, should be starting the hiring process for Director of Human Resources in the next few weeks. All senators are encouraged to volunteer and be active participants in the selection process.



Health insurance cards should be mailed in the next few days and all Health Savings Account (HSA) money has been funded, except for five employees who have not set up their HSA account.

OLD BUSINESS

Health Insurance

President Fraser received a call from Brooke Southard, Interim Director of Human Resources, to clarify some of the questions raised about health insurance from the previous meeting.

Ms. Southard indicated that if the University opted not to make any insurance changes, insurance premiums would have increased by 25% across the board, meaning \$104 insurance rate for each employee. Based on the premium increase, the University met with insurance consultants last year and reviewed all of the data submitted in early August, 2016, according to when the updated insurance information was available. In addition, the University analyzed data on employee wage distribution. The recommendation was made to look at a lower cost insurance plan like the Health Savings Account (HSA) or to offer the previous insurance plan with the option for the employee to pay the premium difference.

The health insurance committee was formed with the purpose of looking at the most equitable way to manage insurance premiums and the current tier stratification was decided on as the best solution. Further tier stratification is a possibility and can be evaluated going forward.

Staff Handbook

Mr. Pennington, University Counsel, was not able to attend, but plans on addressing changes to the Staff Handbook at the March 1, 2017 meeting. Several senators pointed out that Staff Senate meets the same day as Executive Council and perhaps a different day/time would work better for Mr. Pennington. All senators indicated their willingness to look at an emergency meeting if this would help expedite review of the Staff Handbook.



**ARKANSAS TECH
UNIVERSITY**

GOOD AND WELFARE

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Baz Tech 204.

ADJOURNMENT

President Fraser adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Pope, Secretary

