Staff Senate Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2013 - 9:00 AM, Billingsly Boardroom

Members Present: Heather Arnold, Dianna Baker, Nicole Brown, Elisa Bryant, Karesa Burr, Josh Doak, Robert Frossard, Patty Holder, Alicia Hughes, Shavonne McCoy, Tonya Nickle, and Lauren Powell.

Member(s) Absent / Excused: Aaron Lewis, Gary Edwards, Melanie Epperson, and Nancy Rainey

Determination of Quorum: Twelve of Sixteen active members present at the beginning of the meeting, quorum established.

Call to Order: A. Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes: H. Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes; S. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Administrative/Special Guest Comments: None present.

Committee Reports: A. Hughes called for Staff Senate committee reports:

1 Communications Committee – did not meet. E. Bryant is the new chair.

2 Elections Committee – did not meet.

3 Executive Committee – did not meet.

4 Legislative Oversight Committee – did not meet.

5 Staff Welfare Committee – S. McCoy reported that the Academic Incentive Proposal is currently on hold. Looking for new suggestions.

6 Ad Hoc Committee: Staff Survey – H. Arnold discussed that the committee suggests having a third party company handle the survey to help with anonymity and analyze the results. The committee has chosen their preferred provider, but is working on how to get the funding. The price point is around $5,000.
   • N. Brown discussed having a paper fillable form for staff to turn in for anonymity.
     o H. Arnold discussed that this was suggested, but having the time and personnel available to go through and analyze the results was difficult.
     o N. Brown suggested utilizing student workers for configuring the results.
       ▪ H. Arnold agreed we could utilize student workers for this, but with the time it takes to analyze the results it will end up costing around the same as the third party that does everything.
     o N. Brown suggested utilizing scantrons to help analyze the results.
N. Brown the more anonymous the more participation we will have.

Ad Hoc Committee: Merit Pay – did not meet. A. Hughes discussed the need to work on compensation being increased before working on merit pay. There are a lot of complaints about staff complaining about MSSU. If we hear complaining from other staff, then we need to help stop it and talk positively about MSSU. This will help with increasing enrollment which will in turn give the university increased revenues to increase compensation. The Merit Pay Committee is on hold until Staff Senate receives direction from the President’s Council what direction they would like Staff Senate to take with compensation.

Hughes called for campus committee reports:
1. Administrative Council – did not meet.
2. Appreciation Committee – did not meet.
4. Diversity Committee – H. Arnold announced that the committee is actually back. A chair has not been decided yet, and there will be a co-chair. MLK Day is back on.
5. Faculty Senate – R. Frossard introduced Dr. Pedro Talavera the new Faculty Senate liaison. R. Frossard discussed that Rob Yust and Dr. Marble attended the meeting and talked about positive things that will be happening in the future.
6. Orientation & Training – did not meet. T. Nickle discussed that the new Training and Orientation person was hired to replace Debbie Woodmansee. New employee tours will be beginning to show them where everything is on campus.
7. Shared Governance – did not meet.
8. Strategic Planning – on hold.
9. Student Senate – did not meet.

Old Business:
1. Program Prioritization – N. Brown discussed that a draft has been submitted. N. Brown stated that it is temporarily on hold for release because Dr. Marble didn’t want it to be released at the beginning of the semester. N. Brown stated that President’s Council is working on how it is going to be released.

New Business:
1. Holiday Party – A. Hughes discussed that she was approached by Joy Dworkin, Faculty Senate President, about Staff Senate hosting a Holiday Party for the staff and faculty.
   • T. Nickle asked where would the funding come from?
     o A. Hughes stated if Staff Senate decided to host this then President’s Council would have to be approached for funding/funding ideas since Staff Senate has no budget.
   • J. Doak asked how the Back to School party was funded.
     o E. Bryant stated that the Back to School Kick-Off Party was funded partially be a private donation and the other half by President’s Council. If Staff Senate is to take on the Holiday Party then there would have to be sponsors found and a committee set up to plan everything. The Back to School Kick-Off party is enough for the year. If we try to do too much and keep asking for money we aren’t going to be able to do what we want/need to do.
• P. Holder stated that there is already so much going on in December in people’s personal lives as well as on campus that it may be too much.
• N. Brown suggested maybe having a second semester kick off since Holiday time is so busy.
• T. Nickle brought forward a positive from the Back to School party. She had a staff member come to her and tell her how much the party was and that he would be willing to pay to go to another party like this in the future. It reminded him of the old Holiday Party that Dr. Leon hosted annually.
  o R. Frossard the party Dr. Leon hosted had a nice buffet dinner and wine. What about asking President’s Council about if they have anything in the works.
• K. Burr agrees that President’s Council should be approached to take the lead to show their appreciation for all staff and faculty. Then next year staff and faculty could work together on the Back to School Kick-Off Party.
• H. Arnold asked if the Appreciation Committee has some extra budget would it be able to be used for a party?
  o A. Hughes stated that the budget is small but there may be a little left to be used.
• A. Hughes asked if everyone was in agreement that this be taken to President’s Council. Unanimous agreement.

Comments and Announcements/Guest Input:
• Greg stated that he believed Dr. Marble would agree with the Holiday Party because he is very committed to boosting morale.

Anonymous Comments – None received.

Received Comments or suggestions:

Adjournment: E. Bryant made a motion to adjourn. K. Burr seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2013 in Billingsly Board Room

Respectfully submitted by: Patty Holder