



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MINUTES

OCTOBER 9, 2013 9:30 AM

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, ROOM 622

ATTENDEES	Kristal Anzalone, Christi Bailey, Robin Barton, Kelli Cole, Kristi Davis, Michael Davis, Jason Dunavant, Seth Hall, Jeff Hendrix, Russell Hollis, Shelley Johnston, Kyle O'Neal, Patricia Pate, Cyndy Robertson, Whitney Sutherland, Lindsey Wilkerson
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	

Agenda topics

CALL TO ORDER	A regular meeting of the Staff Senate was held on October 9, 2013 in the University Library Room 622 and called to order at 9:30 am by Lindsey Wilkerson, President. A quorum was present.
MINUTES	Minutes of the previous meeting held September 11, 2013 were reviewed by the committee. A change was proposed and noted. Kristi Davis moved to approve the amended minutes; Kyle O'Neal seconded. Motion passed.
DISCUSSIONS	<p>Guest Speaker: The staff senate had two guest speakers. The first presentation was from a group called Interfaith. The second guest speaker was Dr. Richters, Executive Vice President.</p> <p>The members of the Interfaith group introduced themselves. The group included Denny Garner, Eva Wilson, Bette Kauffman, Rev. Rick Stringfellow, and Kim Golden. Each member of the staff senate then introduced him/herself. The members of Interfaith explained the group's purpose. The Interfaith group was started 20 years ago in this community. They are political but nonpartisan. They are interested in those who provide a service to their children and the community.</p> <p>Denny Garner explained that their most recent project was a letter writing campaign to keep Conway Hospital open. Next, they will be meeting with various Monroe City School Board members on November 7 for an Accountability Session. Bette Kauffman introduced herself as both a member of Interfaith and a ULM faculty member. She asked if the staff senate had any questions and offered to be a point of contact.</p>

Lindsey Wilkerson remarked that it sounded like the Interfaith group could help ULM by being a voice to decision makers to let them know that higher education is a vital part of the community and is very important. Bette concurred.

Lindsey made it clear that the group would only give us a forum to speak; he explained that Interfaith is a neutral party. The group then told everyone thank you for having them and to please let them know if they could be of any assistance to ULM.

Lindsey Wilkerson made a motion to the staff senate to discuss the organization and to decide if the staff senate would like to recommend the group to President Bruno be made through email and further discussed at our next scheduled meeting on October 13, 2013. Kristal Anzalone made a motion to continue this discussion via email; Whitney Sutherland seconded the motion.

Our next guest speaker was Dr. Richters, Executive Vice President of ULM. Dr. Richters explained that the ULM budget is tight, but he did say that there was light at the end of the tunnel. Dr. Richters said that the ULM administration is cleaning up previous budgeting practices.

In the past, instead of laying off people, we dipped into our restricted fund which was a short-term fix. Now President Bruno has asked that we cut \$1.5 million from the budget. The first step of this reduction was done today with the workforce reduction of five positions. These five positions will save the university \$400,000-450,000.

The second step of the plan will be to conduct an academic reorganization to be announced by the end of October. The academic reorganization will be in place for January 1, 2014; however, the budgets and coding will be a work in progress until fall of 2014.

Dr. Richters is hopeful that ULM will not have a mid-year budget cut, but he cannot know that for certain at this time. Dr. Richters reported that the university is functioning well and everyone is stepping up. He did remind everyone that ULM offers certain perks such as some flexibility with scheduling that other places do not offer. Dr. Richters asked the staff senate if anyone had any questions.

Lindsey Wilkerson asked if tuition could be based on the major instead of credit hours. Dr. Richters said that this consideration was already in discussion. Dr. Richters thanked the staff senate for having him as a guest speaker and also assured everyone that the ULM administration was doing everything in their power to make the workforce reduction go the best it could go by doing such things as offering job counseling to those affected.

President's Report: Lindsey Wilkerson reported that the facilities plan is online and will be in the upcoming ULM magazine. Lindsey also

announced that ULM's new media director is Donna Bernard.

Russell Hollis' "unexcused" absence at the Sept. 2013 meeting was changed to "excused" after he said he was dealing with a client emergency in his role in the Student Counseling Center.

President Lindsey Wilkerson presented certificates of Service Appreciation to Kristal Anzalone and Robin Barton as they are leaving the employment of the university during October.

Committee Reports

Communication: None.

Constitution and By-Laws: None.

Staff Welfare: None.

A new chair will be needed because the current chair, Robin Barton, will be leaving ULM. Lindsey Wilkerson will announce the new chair at the next meeting on October 13, 2013.

Elections: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Today's meeting was the last day for Kristal Anzalone at ULM. Robin Barton will also be leaving ULM. Kristal was the Parliamentarian; therefore, a new Parliamentarian was needed. Shelley Johnston volunteered. Lindsey Wilkerson made a motion to appoint Shelley Johnston as Parliamentarian; Kristal Anzalone seconded the motion. Shelley Johnston will be the new Parliamentarian.

Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 13, 2013 @ 9:30 a.m. in the Academic Affairs Conference Room 622.

CONCLUSIONS There being no further business Lindsey Wilkerson made a motion to adjourn; Kristal Anzalone seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.