

Staff Senate

Held on: October 14, 2003, 10:04 am

Held at: John Gray Library

Lamar University Staff Senate

October 14, 2003

Senators present:

Julie Alford Connie DeSha Shannon Klutts Chad Smith Valerie Black Cathy Dunaven Helen Lack
Wendy Smith Donna Blaisdell Sherrie Fitzgerald Wendi LeBlanc Dave Stafford Sandra Brooks
Mary Givan Diana Licatino Sandra Tucker Sal Costa Tom Griffen Royce McGuire Margerie Weston
Dennis Crow Eddie Henley Dawna Mitchell Mary Wilson Jana Daigle Faye Johnnie Kathy Pierce
Kevin Whalen Gail Davis Tina Johnson Sandra Robbins

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Jana Daigle.

II. Roll call

The roll was called by Diana Licatino. There were 31 Senators present and a quorum was seated.

III. Minutes

Dawna Mitchell made a motion to accept the September 9, 2003 meeting minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Sherri Fitzgerald. The Senate accepted the minutes unanimously without changes. Diana Licatino will post the minutes to the Staff Senate website.

IV. Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Jana Daigle –

Question was raised as to whether administrative leave would be given when funds were not available. Dr. Simmons and Mr. Ferguson said the Merit plan would take a few years to get going. They would not say yes or no to the administrative leave until that time comes.

The \$2 from tuition that was put in an escrow fund for staff bonus at Christmas. Dr. Simmons and Mr. Ferguson said that was a one time thing and the state would not allow bonuses. Wendy Smith brought up that the SGA had approved the funding for the bonuses years ago and wants to know if the funding is still coming out of the tuition. If so where is it going to? Jana requested the Budget and Compensation Committee to look into the matter and report at next meeting on all fees, where they come from and what they are used for.

The subject of taking a class (seminar type course) to benefit your work but not going toward a degree and whether or not Lamar would pay for the class was also discussed. Mr. Ferguson informed the Executive Committee that Lamar could pay for such classes (seminar type courses) if the department had money in their budget to fund it.

Staff Awards Committee – Jana Daigle reported that Cindy Rhoden wanted to thank everyone who helped with the awards and that everything went off great. We have heard many positive comments about the awards and the ceremony.

V. Unfinished Business

Senators were given by email and in print at the meeting the list of Senators and their terms. Jana Daigle explained that as stated in the By Laws, the terms are to be staggered where 1/3 of the Senator seats expire each year. The Senator's position is constant even when a Senator terminates or moves to another department. The nominations committee did not follow the guidelines in the past and therefore many of the divisions/areas had all of their senator's terms expire on the same year. This has been rectified and will be maintained in the future by the Nominations Committee.

New Business

No new business

VI. Good of the Order

*Candy Sales – please contact Sharon Sanders or Tina Wright at 880-8127 to pick up candy to sell for March of Dimes or to turn in money.

*Alumni 3rd Tuesday – Will be held on October 21, 2003 at the Star Bar and Grill on Crocket Street. All Alumni are encouraged to attend. Jana reported that it is a great way to see old faces that bring back great memories for both Alumni and employees.

*The American Heart Association is having a walk, if you would like to participate please sign up. The MIRABEAU message said to go to the following website to sign up:

*Red, White & You – shirts are in the Alumni office, cost is \$5.00 and signs for your yard are free.

*Cathy Dunaven reported that Renee Baxley is home and beginning to be able to move around her apartment complex and is doing much better.

*Union Information – A Texas State Employees Union representative has been attempting to recruit members from the Lamar University Community to join their Union. While the University does not advocate either way for or against a Union, it is policy that any outside vendor/association obtain permission to present materials and recruit/advertise on campus. This policy allows for the vendor a place to present their presentation while protecting and allowing University functions to be maintained.

Jana Daigle, as Staff Senate President brought this information to the Senate in order to inform the staff that while they have the right to join a Union or Organization, they need to find out all information possible before signing anything. What can that Union or Organization do for you now and in the long run? Is it worth your money you are going to have to spend to get it? Jana requested the Human Resources Department to present information pertaining to this type of matter to the Senate.

JoAnn Russell, Director of Human Resources, passed out information concerning policy and procedures for this matter and advised anyone being approached to think carefully before signing

anything.

Jana stated that if you sign up for a Union or Organization and have a payroll deduction put on your account to pay for it, then decide you did not want to join, or it wasn't what you thought it was, you may be in for trouble. We don't know how long it would take to have them stop removing this payment from your account. It could take up to a year to get it corrected and you would not be reimbursed for the money they take out, so be VERY careful and be sure of what you want to do before signing up.

Jana also provided flyers from the Union so that everyone would have the opportunity to go to their meeting and hear what they have to offer. Their meeting is scheduled for 10:30 AM on October 18th, 2003. If you have any questions or would like more information contact Jana Daigle.

*Question was brought up about the 2% raise that will be on the check you receive December 1. JoAnn Russell stated that you would get \$50.00 a month or 2% so basically everyone that makes \$30,000.00 and under would see a \$50.00 a month increase.

*Cathy Dunaven of Financial Aid, asked what the employees of the Wimberly Building could do because of the intolerable working conditions caused by the roofing work on the building. Sandra Tucker suggested they contact Charmaine Costner to have the situation evaluated. Jana Daigle suggested they do as some of the staff from the Parker Building did and relocate in order to continue working. Jana stated that the Cherry building training room may be available, as it was for the staff members of the Parker building, but they would need to check with the AVP of IT's office for verification. All relocations would have to be approved through department heads and/or Charmaine Costner.

VII. Adjournment

Sherri Fitzgerald made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Sandy Tucker seconded the motion. The Senate approved the adjournment unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.