



Staff Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 20th, 2016
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Malott Room, 6th Level, Kansas Union

Call to Order

- 12:04pm

Approval of Minutes

- Peggy Robinson moves, Mary Murphy seconds, all in favor, none oppose, approved 12:05

Reports

President – Chris Wallace

- No report.
- SENEX and University Senate has not met yet.

Secretary – Tim Spencer

- No report.

Treasurer – Paula Hinman

- \$2,401.15 total available funds.

Legislative Affairs – Dawn Shew & Precious Porras

- Spoke at the annual Douglas County legislative meeting. Given late notice about the meeting. Many groups participated and spoke about their agendas. Had both USS and UPS time, as they didn't know about the merger. Three issues discussed were diversity and equity, concern as body about gun policy, and salary and furlough issues. Legislative group is supportive, voted against the gun policy. Barbara Ballard plans to propose an amendment for university/education/medical building exemptions, as there is no such legislation coming through the state to attach to. Great opportunity to speak, was on the local news representing Staff Senate. Meeting helped the legislative group know we are there, and extended an invitation for them to come to our meeting and speak about the issues. State-wide gun survey was publicized in last two weeks, sent results to legislative group. Will send link to general body, which was printed in the Lawrence Journal World. KU felt more strongly than other universities, but there was a resounding push against the gun policy across the board.

Professional Development Chair – Debbie Forsyth

- Awarded \$4,500 to 16 awardees. Haven't met with committee this semester. Poses question to Senate on how to use balance of remaining funds. One idea is Mini Wheat St Bus Tour, another is funding a Staff Senate laptop (estimated \$1,100-\$1,200 for basic laptop). If funding a bus tour, committee needs to act soon.

Personnel Affairs Chair – Steven Levenson

- Committee discussed process around notification of non-reappointment. Working on proposal to put in place a real appeals process. Amanda Ostreko did work last year, and Ola mentioned previously that HR will take information.

Public Relations Chair – Cody Case

- Scheduled meeting with PR committee. Will work on newsletter and email. Topics of newsletter would include professional development awards provided, and election for next academic year. To prepare for the process, will meet with Chris Escalante and Andy Jackson to discuss using the voting software, usually borrowed from Student

Senate. Would like bio and description from each applicant for senator positions, including why they are interested in being a senator. Will send out link with ballot so that voters can have some knowledge of potential senators. In previous years, there was a link to a bio page, outside of the voting process.

- Question on Mini Wheat St Tour, would also mention in newsletter, if decision can be made soon. Believes this event is great PR for Staff Senate. Senator mentions diversity training could also use the funds, and/or open the Mini Wheat St Tour to those who have not attended in the past. Chris mentions that there are many that attend regularly. Senator proposes a lottery system (i.e. Wheat St Powerball), as many staff do not have access to a computer at work on a regular basis. One exception is PD committee members in attendance. Budget last year was the largest USS had funded, and included two buses (\$900/bus rental) and was held on Stop Day. Last year staff were asked for input on locations, Michelle will reference last year's suggestions as well as new ones. Senator suggests idea for Flint Hills area, Cottonwood courthouse, green manufacturing company, and another senator mentions that the Flint Hills were visited a few years ago. Question from senator on time constraints, response from Senate as to a day trip, possibly 7am to 5pm. Senator mentions Brown v Board of Education in Topeka as a possible location. Senator mentions combined arms center in Fort Leavenworth. For additional suggestions email Deb. Deadline in a week for responses to how the remaining funds can be spend, location suggestions and ideas or both by next Wednesday.

Elections Chair – Andy Jackson

- Elections coming up. Transition document states that all senators will serve to end of the 2015-16 academic year. Everyone except Liz (who will be president next year) will be finalized in the 2015-16 academic year and everyone will be up for re-election. Staggered terms will be set up, but it's not been decided how this will be accomplished, committee will meet to decide these terms. Elections will be in March. Will meet with IT for software platform for voting. February newsletter will be used to remind staff for the voting in March. Will work with Liz to assist staff who do not have access to a computer for voting. Question from senator on straw-poll from body to see who is interested in running again, and question on using funds to advertising to get a larger response. Committee will need to clarify who is in which job classification/assignments. There are no numbers set yet by classification. Abbi Warmker resigned, down to 45 senators, if going below this threshold, we would have to hold an election. Senator asks about information on how staff jobs are classified/assigned, response is that Ola has this information, it's based on primary appointment and not the family code, i.e. if administrative in research, will be in research. Andy has data and can request additional information from Ola. At next elections committee will discuss this and bring up the proposals at the next meeting. No control over HR designations, spent over four weeks in the past on this one item. Ultimate idea was to try and make sure that there was equal representation among groups and families, beyond that there are not many options. Administration/management category had not been through the HR reclassification market study when previously discussed.
- Liz mentions that smoking policy and gun policy are coming up for July 2017, so this coming academic year will be significant. If you have concerns on running again, please reach out to Liz. Important, if not enough people run, then this group folds. Faculty and Student Senates are strong, Staff Senate needs representation, and our voices need to be heard. Need help reaching out to non-traditional, diverse and underrepresented staff. Reach out to your peers for interest and supervisors for allowing staff to attend meetings. Senator mentions that when staff receive emails in bulk, that there is a tendency to delete them.
- Senator asks to have Staff Senate listed as professional development in the HRM system. Ola is not present, asked to direct question to her.

HRM – Ola Faucher

- Not present.

Unfinished Business

Tobacco free policy – HRM

- Not present. Chris mentions would like a statement from the body, could be as simple as what Ola provided (i.e. The Staff Senate supports the University's effort to be a Tobacco Free KU). Senator mentions a conflict with the university pushing for tobacco-free policy, but guns on campus are permitted. Response is gun issue is state law out of our hands, tobacco issue is university level and we have control. Senator mentions university wants to approach an item that is legal (tobacco) but not guns. Response is that the university's hands are tied on the approach. Senator mentions tobacco free enforcement is an issue, as it is legal, they are in favor of changing the culture, but the notion of staff, students and faculty being punished is not favorable. Senator mentions that at hospitals it is directed off site, but the university is too large to go off site, with the possibility of smoking in cars. Senator mentions alcohol and pornography are legal in the state but are not allowed by HR on campus, mentions that this could be classified as such. Ola sent out email today about third-hand smoking. Senator mentions balancing right to make own decisions. Ola is asking all the senates for a statement of approval, will be used as a marketing tool and looks good for research as a smoke-free campus. Ola and the Chancellor are reaching out for support, not just a mandate, which would show that the university members are behind this policy. Senator proposes vote on if the body is interested at this point in time, show of hands only 13 interested. Senator mentions that they would only vote as to encourage a new social/cultural norm, but not as an enforcement tool. Chris mentions that a statement will be drafted, paper vote at next meeting. Senator mentions example of ladder policy use, not enforced but encouraged for safety.

Diversity Resolution Proposal – Legislative Affairs

- Proposal for new committee and chair. Typos were fixed, but no other suggestions provided by staff. Andy motions to create committee, Steve mentions racial injustice is not mentioned in this proposal, Chris responses that this can be addressed in the committee, and Senator mentions that this is a general committee to address many marginalized communities. Senator asks of deadlines, response this committee will be for next academic year, so committee can be established and chair chosen by voting time this semester. All in favor, none oppose, approved 1:01pm.

New Business

- None

Call to Adjourn

- Greg motions, Tim seconds, all in favor, none opposed, adjourned 1:02 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Executive Council

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Alcove G, 3rd Level, Kansas Union

Full Senate

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Malott Room, 6th Level, Kansas Union

Senators excused from meeting: Delores Barnard, Teri Chambers, Peter Haney, Jami Jones, Kristine Latta, Kevin Liu, Margaret Mahoney, Lauren McEnaney, Amanda Ostreko, Michael Rivers, William Sharp, Susan Shaw, Tanya Spacek