

FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

MINUTES

STAFF SENATE MEETING

J.C. Jones Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Charles Chesnutt Library

Thursday, August 17, 2017

2:00 p.m.

The FSU Staff Senate convened on Thursday, August 17, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in the J.C. Jones Board Room, in the Charles Chesnutt Library. President Velappan Velappan called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following were in attendance: Suzetta Perkins, Michelle Saunders, Cindia Weatherwax, Patricia Flanigan, Velappan Velappan, Keith Townsend, Sandra Hughes, Linda Saunders, Cassandra Jenkins, Claudette Fuller, Roni D. Stearns, Tamika Jones, Dorothy Cannon-Brown, Stephanie Knight, Amy Mendez, Shenetta Dudley, Arnescia Moody, Nicholle Young, and Tammiika Frowner.

**AGENDA**

Suzetta Perkins made a motion to approve the Agenda. Patricia Flanigan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Keith Townsend made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 27, 2017 and June 15, 2017. Roni Stearns seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Velappan Velappan welcomed the new senators.

**MS. TIBB'S REPORT**

Ms. Terri Tibbs, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources shared some legislative updates that affect all employees. She stated that SHRA employees received a \$1000 increase to their base salary that was paid out in paychecks on July 31, 2017. For EHRA employees, the process is different. Everyone will not receive an increase. It will be merit based. Payout will be in September or October. Ms. Tibbs also stated that all employees will receive a one-time, three-day Special Bonus Leave, effective July 1, 2017. This bonus leave will expire upon retirement or discharge/termination from the university. This leave cannot be used to donate to other employees.

HR is displaced at the moment. HR employees are scattered throughout the Barber Building until building/offices are repaired.

Ms. Tibbs stated that HR is trying to improve some of their process to include lean manufacturing (joint collaboration effort), hiring process, travel, and background checks to name a few. Hiring processes is at the top of the list.

Ms. Kay Faircloth, Associate Director in Human Resources, stated that if anyone hadn't updated their State Plan Dependent Clause, they should do it right away. There isn't a definitive deadline, but Ms. Faircloth urged those who needed to take care of it to do so immediately. Also, Annual enrollment begins on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please stay tuned to FSU News in order to be advised on current deadlines and schedules. If you need to update your state plan, please do so in the period recommended, otherwise you will be placed on the 70/30 plan. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Benefit and Wellness Fair in the Rudolph Jones Student Center. Some of the health providers have gone away and there will be a cost increase for all employees. NC Flex is going away. IMED is the new provider.

Kimberly Weston-Moore, also from Human Resources, spoke briefly about training. Linda.com is a valuable resource training app that is available to all staff. She encouraged everyone to try it. Leadership 101 training will be offered soon. Our own Staff Senate Senator, Roni Stearns is the coordinator.

## **DR. YOUNG'S REPORT**

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jon Young, stated the academic year is off to a good start. A new program called the Inside Track has been implemented with half of new freshmen attending. Our major goal is to realize 6,366 undergrad students, and we're close to that number with 6,066 enrolled. Our graduate enrollment is impressive and the highest we've ever had at 826 students. Enrollment is a necessary component for the university's health.

Latasha Jones, former Staff Senate member who's now on faculty and a part of the faculty senate would like to be the bridge between the two senates. Faculty Senate meets the first Thursday, while the Staff Senate meets the third Thursday. The goal for this year is to bridge the gap and it was suggested that a representative from each body attend the other's meeting and possibly share.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Beginning January 2018, ITTS employees' status will change from SHRA to EHRA.

UNC-GA will move to a new platform during August/September time frame. Anyone hired January 2021 or later will not be eligible for Retiree Health Care Benefits.

FSU delegates to the UNC Staff Assembly are as follows: Senators Velappan Velappan, Michelle Saunders, and Arnescia Moody as third (3<sup>rd</sup>) delegate. Senator Patricia Flanigan will be the alternate.

Committee sign-up sheets were dispersed for members to elect a committee to serve on. Also, President Velappan stated that we need two marshals for the Convocation. Senators Keith Townsend and Michelle Saunders volunteered.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There weren't any committee reports.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Michelle Saunders announced that September 30<sup>th</sup> has been designated as the Ball-in-Pink game in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Prior to the game, there will be a 3K walk that FSU is partnering with the Links in order to raise funds for breast cancer. Ms. Saunders said that volunteers are needed and would very much like to have Staff Senate representatives.

Senator Stephanie Knight offered a suggestion for a project that the Staff Senate could participate in. It is called the Missing Man Tables.

Senator Cindy Weatherwax from our Environment and Safety Office offered suggestions to staff on how to be safe during the upcoming Labor Day holiday to include travel or while at home. She also stated that it was hurricane season and that we should be mindful to be hurricane ready—water, snacks, etc.

There was some concern about the awarding of the Excellence Award during the Staff Appreciation in May. The concern is that someone who was a fairly new hire to the university and was still on probation (ineligible) received the award. Further discussions will be had.

Senator Michelle Saunders made a motion to adjourn. Senator Cindy Weatherwax second the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.