

Minutes
HSU Staff Senate
February 13, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Henderson State University Staff Senate was called to order at 10:00am in the Sun room by President Drew Smith.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Amanda Baker, Martha Bryant, Deborah Collins, Denise Cordova, Renee' Davis, Anna Eudy, Calvin Francis, Tina Furr, Danica Golden, Ernie Higgs, Becky Hughes, Amy Hunnewell-Fitzroy, Jackie Inouye, Penny Kinder, Rene Loy, Joe May, Beverly Quillin, Drew Smith, Rhonda Thigpen and Sharon West

Members Absent: Angie Bradshaw, Brenda Callaway, Josh Hebig, and Mike Pennington

Guests: Dan Fitzroy, Faculty Senate representative; Kris Dunn, Director of Campus Recreation and Kathy Taylor, Director of Human Resources

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed. Minutes were approved as distributed on motion by Deborah Collins seconded by Joe May.

NEW BUSINESS

Drew Smith asked Kris Dunn, Director of Campus Recreation, to speak a little about the benefits staff can take advantage of at the Charles D. Dunn Student Recreation Center. Kris stated that faculty and staff now have the benefit of using the recreation center at no cost to them, saving them a total of \$312 per year. He also stated that there was a discount offered for spouses of current HSU staff members resulting in a monthly fee of \$17 or a yearly rate of \$200. Kris reported that staff would have full access to the entire facility, including participation in group exercise fitness classes and lifestyle management programs. He stated that staff also had the opportunity to rent all outdoor recreational equipment that is available at the recreation center.

Drew Smith also asked Kathy Taylor, Director of Human Resources, to speak about the university's employee performance evaluations that had been sent out around the end of January per the request of President Jones. Kathy stated that the results of the employee evaluations would not affect salary increases because salary increases at Henderson are not based on merit. Kathy stated that institutions are given the opportunity to decide whether or not to tie performance evaluations to pay increases and currently Henderson does not have the money to fund this type of program. When asked about the cost of living increase, Kathy said at this time there is no indication from the state or the governor regarding these increases for the year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Drew Smith reported that he met with President Jones on Friday, February 8, 2013 immediately after the Board of Trustees meeting. He said that President Jones again expressed his support of the work of the Staff Senate and his openness to staff concerns. Drew stated that President Jones discussed some of the issues that are being presented in the State Legislature that will have an

impact on Henderson. President Jones stated that House Bill 1243 authorizes faculty or staff members who have concealed weapons permits to have guns on campus. Dr. Jones stated that all university presidents and chancellors are against this bill citing that it only presents the potential for more dangerous situations. He and other officials from state universities in Arkansas will be voicing their opposition to this bill. President Jones also discussed a forthcoming bill that advocates for a tiered approach to funding the lottery scholarship and how this may have an impact on Henderson's ability to recruit students.

Drew stated that he asked Dr. Jones about the recent letter sent by Carrie Roberson, director of the Office of Institutional Advancement. Dr. Jones stated that no one should feel obligated to give to Henderson, but he does encourage employees to invest in Henderson as they see fit.

Drew reported that President Jones was open to having another staff forum this year. Drew stated that he would be working with Flora Weeks to set up this forum.

Drew reported that he met with Vice President Bobby Jones to discuss the new performance funding all state universities are required to implement. He stated that this new policy requires Henderson to set aside 5% of its 18 million dollar budget, which calculates to \$900,000. Bobby stated that the purpose is to hold universities accountable for raising graduations rates and that the Governor has set a goal of doubling college graduates in Arkansas by 2025.

Drew stated that Bobby also talked about the need to raise additional funding through offering on line courses and courses at 2 year institutions. Increasing these will help to raise revenue without having to provide additional housing and parking for these students.

Bobby reported that the new dining facility is set to be complete on May 15 and move in will begin shortly after completion.

Drew reported that discussions are taking place on renovating the Garrison Center to restore its purpose as a student center. He said that there is the strong possibility that Chick-fil-a and a Starbucks will also be part of the renovation.

COMMITTEE PREFERENCES

Drew Smith provided the senate with a list of Staff Senate committees and who is currently serving on each committee. He asked the senate to look at the list and think about the committees they would like to serve on. The following senators were selected to serve, in addition to the ones already serving, on the following committees for the upcoming term:

- Election Committee – Denise Cordova (chair), Renee' Davis and Tina Furr
- Survey Committee – Becky Hughes (chair), Danica Golden, Ernie Higgs and Joe May. Charlie Fetterhoff was removed from this committee because he is no longer serving on Staff Senate.
- Textbook Scholarship Committee – Anna Eudy-Espinoza (chair), Calvin Francis, Jackie Inouye and Penny Kinder
- Employee of the Year Committee – This committee will be appointed by President Drew Smith at a later time.
- Staff Handbook Committee – This committee has already been established and Amy Hunnewell-Fitzroy was asked to join this committee as Staff Senate President Elect.

GOALS FOR 2013

Drew Smith stated that one goal the Staff Handbook committee had for the upcoming year would be to finish the Staff senate handbook. Drew also asked the senate to start thinking about additional goals for the upcoming year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drew Smith reported that March 4th – 8th is International Focus week. He also stated that the International Food Bazaar would be held March 8th in the Garrison Center Day gym. He stated that tickets for this event could be purchased from any HISA member or in the Center for International Programs office. The cost will be \$10 for individuals but there is a discount for families available. Drew said that the profits from the International Food Bazaar would go to the Hillcrest Children's home.

STAFF CONCERNS

Becky Hughes asked about being able to get into APERS, retirement program. Penny Kinder stated, at this time, once you pick a retirement program you are not allowed to change programs.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Ernie Higgs, seconded by Martha Bryant the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting of Staff Senate will be held March 13, 2013.