

HSU Staff Senate Minutes

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Members present:

Rikki Rebollar, Nikki Laird, Scott Chandler, Cody Hooten, Phil McDaniel, Jewelie Mills, Kelly Stewart, Jacob Mills, Belford Williams Jr., Kris Dunn, Leah Sexton, and Susie Kirk

Members absent:

Reo Cummings, Heath Sims, Carrie Stanley, Mallory Turner, Jordan Bell, Mindy Daniels, Mickey Quattlebaum, Stacey Howard, and Beth Jackson.

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Henderson State Staff Senate was held on October 9, 2019 in the Cabe Room. President Leah Sexton called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2019 meeting as read. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. President's Report

- A. President Leah Sexton reported that she had her monthly Presidents meeting with President Kneebone, the Faculty Senate President, and the Student Government President. Sexton expressed to Kneebone that the staff are a body that feels the least protected in regards to job loss. Kneebone assured that they are going through all other measures before lay-offs occur.
- B. Sexton asked for all gathered questions about the possible ASU merger. President Elect Rikki Rebollar suggested that all questions go to Sexton to pass on to Kneebone. Rebollar suggested this to give staff anonymity.
- C. Sexton spoke with Brad Patterson (Vice President of Student Affairs and Student Success) about the Financial Aid situation. At the time of their meeting, 80% of student accounts had been processed. His team are working on distributions, originations, and reimbursements. The current program is broken. At each step, they have to fix another aspect of the program. They would like to find a new system, but it is hard to switch systems in the middle of the year. Patterson shared that even if they switched to a new system now, it would still be after January before the setup was complete.

A senator posed the question, "Since the product is broken, do we still have to pay full price for the product?". It was stated that the legal team is exploring that by reviewing the contract.

A senator asked, "What can we do to relay information to students?" Senator Scott Chandler from Financial Aid said to continue sending them to Financial Aid. Emergency loans are an option to provide aid until their loans come through. These loans will accrue no interest and will be deducted from their existing loans, refunds, and grants. These loans can be made up to \$1000.

Financial Aid shared that they have not dropped anyone for non-payment, especially since the system is not up and running properly.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- A. Treasurer Kris Dunn reported that we haven't spent any money since last meeting. Our balance is still at \$306.

V. Committee Reports

A. Election Committee

- 1. Chair Stacey Howard was unable to attend, but President Sexton reported on her behalf. A call for Staff Senate nominations will be put out soon. Election needs to be done in November, so that they can be elected and present at the December meeting. Sexton also mentioned the need to update the constitution and bylaws so that they depict the correct voting procedures. Senator Laird made a motion to update the bylaws to remove "Survey Monkey" and change it to "voting system to be approved by Staff Senate". It was seconded and passed. Laird made a motion to use Google Forms for this year's election. It was seconded and passed.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Professional Development Opportunities - Nikki Laird** - In our previous meeting, we discussed this. Laird asked for feedback from the departments.. She received the following ideas for professional development: Google Drive Basics, Advanced Google tips for Gmail and Labs; Conflict Resolution and Deescalation; and Email Etiquette On and Off Campus. Senators discussed training attendance. It was suggested that a quiz or survey be sent out to see what level the people interested in attending were at. It was suggested for each session to be offered two or three times to allow staff with different schedules to attend.. Senator Mills suggested using TechSmith relay for sessions so people can watch them in their own time. It was suggested that we reach out to IT and Education faculty for involvement. President of Faculty Senate, Fred Worth is open to supporting through Faculty Senate. He said that it would be good service opportunities for Faculty.

- 1. Senator Rikki suggested some kind of morale boosting programs for staff and opened the floor to suggestions. Requested to send these to Rikki. It was decided that this is separated from development, but important.

- B. **Staff Senate Grounds Committee Discussion** - It was brought up in the Spring, but it needed to go through SGOC. Senator Heath Sims is interested in working on this. It has not yet been approved by SGOC. There is also interest within Faculty Senate. There is an existing Buildings and Ground Committee for Faculty and it could be dissolved if the Grounds committee with Staff was approved.

VII. Announcements/Comments/Questions

- A. Several Senators announced and encouraged their fellow Senators to attend the various upcoming Homecoming events.
- B. A Senator inquired about the search for VP for Finance? President Sexton started that they interviewed two candidates and have passed along a recommendation. Sexton is awaiting news of a Campus Forum. Sexton and Rebollar both served on the search committee and

felt like their voices were heard and Staff Senate was able to be well represented. Both stated that there were very good candidates with lots of experience.

- C. A Senator asked if there were any updates on insurance? It was stated that there is a teleconference regarding Fringe Benefits this afternoon with Board of Trustees. They are proposing going to Blue Cross and Blue Shield and away from being self-insured.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Adjournment at 10:58 AM

- IX.** Next meeting will be held on November 13, 2019 at 10 AM in the Cabe Room.