

UNCG Staff Senate Executive Committee
January 22, 2009 Minutes
Bryan 416

Roll Call

Attending: (5) Scott Milman, Kevin Bullard, Judy Guard, Janet Hendley, Sheryl Williamson, Suzanne Williams

Absent with Notice: (2) Donna Sexton, Sharon Humphrey

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Scot Milman at 10:00 am.

Announcements by Chair

Scott talked with Jonathan Britton, the Staff Senate website maintainer, about attending these meetings, but he has a staff meeting during that time and cannot attend. We will make an effort to get him info as soon as possible after the meeting.

Items Discussed

- *Elections Committee: Suzanne Williams*
 - Suzanne reported that the Elections Committee is on track and has split into groups to divide the work load. The nominations process has begun and information was published in Campus Weekly, which was sent out January 21. The group will get together before next staff assembly meeting. If they have any seats that are contested, there will be a plan for doing paper and electronic balloting.
 - Kevin Bullard offered this update: Mark Coker has met with Kevin McClain. If there is a contested seat in a department that does not have Novell accounts, such as Facilities, they will use Genie to vote. Everyone else will use the voting system Kevin McClain set up and that was used last year. Paper ballots may also be used.
 - Suzanne also reported that they have a timetable that is contingent on whether there are contested seats. If there are contested seats, runoffs would be in March.
 - Janet Hendley asked what happens if a senator is due to roll off the Staff Senate this year and no one else in their area is interested in serving. Scott and Suzanne informed us that a senator can run for 2 consecutive terms and can nominate themselves again if they want to. There are very few senators who would be ineligible to run again.
 - Two senators have 2 unexcused absences in a row. One has been contacted and is coming back. Scott has not been able to contact the other one yet.

- *Staff Recognition Committee: Sheryl Williamson*
 - Sheryl currently has 4 staff stars to award. Two people nominated the same person this time. The letter that recipients receive states who nominated them and the reasons they gave for nominating.
 - Scott Milman mentioned that his area includes employees that are not UNCG employees, but work here every day. Sheryl says that we have delivered to at least one employee that is not a UNCG employee.
 - Sheryl reported on the Staff Excellence Awards. The letter that the winner receives has been reworked, but we do not have a date for the luncheon. Scott is going to talk to the Chancellor about luncheon when he meets with her on January 29. Sheryl would like him to find out if the chancellor would announce the winners at the luncheon rather than beforehand.

- *Enrichment Committee: Janet Hendley*
 - The Brown Bag Seminar on Finance yesterday (1-21) was well attended and people thought it was very useful. More than 30 people attended. However, parking was an issue for the speaker. We should talk with Suzanne Williams in the future about that and make arrangements in advance for off-campus speakers.
 - Connie Uselman is working on Go Red for Women on Feb 13. Student Health Center will provide glucose and blood pressure checks and vouchers for cholesterol checks. Janet has contacted Nursing student organizations but has not heard back from them. Scott suggested the nutrition department might want to participate, or the nutritionist from Dining Services. Janet is going to contact them and find out.
 - Staff Senate Scholarship: Janet handed out latest version of the Statement of Establishment (SOE). Scott asked if there had been any thought about awarding a certain percentage of the scholarship money each year to Staff Members, rather than dependents. Janet acknowledged that the scholarship committee could look at this. There is no reference in the SOE to what the money could actually be used for. Janet has not had a chance to get back to Mary McComb to find out where these guidelines would be included, if not the SOE. Scott suggested the wording could just say that it is awarded to help with “Part of the cost of education”. Brad Johnson, who is on the Employee Enrichment Committee has brought up more than once the idea of soliciting a one-time donation of \$10 to all faculty and staff to get to the \$25,000 amount that is needed for endowment. Janet will talk to Patti Stewart about it and see if that would be possible. Sheryl Williamson suggested that members of the Employee Enrichment Committee could attend departmental staff meetings on campus to talk about the scholarship fund and explain what it is used for.

- Other items:
 - Kevin Bullard remarked that at the December meeting we talked about holding next year’s Staff Senate meetings in different spots across campus. Kevin has compiled a list of possible meeting locations, which he will send to Libby Sexton:
 - Moore 201
 - Weil Winfield
 - Bryan 416
 - EUC (standby, possibly the Maple room?)
 - State Dining Room
 - North Spencer
 - Stone 186
 - McIver 140
 - Sullivan Science or Petty Science
 - Spring Garden Apartments
 - Guilford and Mary Foust
 - Faculty Center (The committee remarked that meetings used to be held in the Faculty Center, and it is not big enough)
 - Scott Milman announced there will be a meeting on January 29th for Inclusive Campus Task Force, spearheaded by the Faculty Senate and comprised of faculty, staff and students. This month’s panel will be a panel of staff who have been selected from around campus.
 - During the Human Resource Services liaison’s meeting, they were told that staff would need to take personal leave, or work out with their supervisor to take any compensatory time they have to attend the forum. Technically, staff members are supposed to take leave if they are not working their normal shift.

- Scott reported that the budget situation is changing by the day and not for the better. Governor Perdue said we are looking at 2.2 billion dollar deficit for the year. Universities are already holding back 4% of budget, now it has been changed for this month's allocation to 6% holdback annualized. We had been told we would have about 7% cut, but at the last Board of Governor's meeting, they were told to do exercises up to 10%, (some campuses are doing exercises up to 12% cuts). What that means for state employees is unclear right now. The governor has frozen all open positions, except for those in offices such as the Office of Safety. Many of those positions that are frozen may be cut. State employees are looking at some job losses. President Bowles told chancellors to look at the programs on their respective campuses and determine whether they are relevant to the mission and goals of the university. They should look at eliminating those programs that are not. However, nothing is on paper yet and there are lots of rumors right now. The Department of Transportation has already begun furloughing spa employees. The UNC system universities have been looking at their Reduction in Force (RIF) policies to make sure they are in line with state RIF policies. There has been no word on furloughs, but it is something the system is looking at. Furloughs spread the cut out across a lot of people and are a temporary wage reduction. The Chancellor has said there would be position cuts, and they would be done strategically. Chancellor Brady gave an update on the budget on December 14. Scott is meeting with her on January 2^{9th} and is going to ask when she will give the next update and see if we can send someone to that meeting.
- Another issue facing state employees right now is the state health insurance situation. The state health plan has about a 300 million dollar shortfall for this year. Things that may be done: 1. Look at increasing contributions that employees pay. 2. Increase co-pays, increase deductibles, and remove some health benefits. Staff assembly chairs are meeting tomorrow for an update.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Guard, Secretary.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 10 am – Bryan 416