Louisiana State University in Shreveport
Staff Senate
Minutes for April 13, 2011

The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Chelsey Chance at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

Staff Senators present included: Alicia Atkins, Darlenna Atkins, Becky Berry, Don Bloxom, Roderick Blue, Susan Gutierrez, Barbara Tillman, Faye Lampkin, Rene McDonald, Katie Simpson, and Anthony Washington

Staff Senators absent were: Cindy Armstrong, Alex Mitchell, and Bart Riggins

Minutes from the March 9, 2011 meeting were approved as written (Don Bloxom motioned to approve, motion passed).

President's Comments
President Chance reported that there were no updates on the budget. There will be a statewide budget meeting on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at the LSU Alexandria campus.

This will be President Chance's last meeting. Commented on how much she has enjoyed serving as the Staff Senate President.

Treasurer’s Report
Secretary Darlenna Atkins reported the balances of the Staff Senate's account.

Staff Senate Support Fund has a balance of $2,210.52. It increased by $125.66 which was made through payroll deductions.

Guest Administrator Reports
Mike Ferrell, Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs, reported on several items. The Civil Service has ruled no pay increases for next year. Governor Jindal has banned pay increases for unclassified and faculty staff. Promotions are not affected by these rulings.

Health insurance premiums are going up by 4.5%. There was a benefit fair held on Tuesday, April 11th. Some health insurances are moving to the calendar year basis, possibly causing an increase in premiums.

The LSUS Baseball team is ranked #5. The Red River Regional Conference will be held on the LSUS campus. Chad McDowell was named Louisiana Small College Coach of the Year. Debate team placed 2nd in competition. Weightlifting team won 1st place in National competition. The Fishing team is also doing well.

New Formula for Higher Education Funds:
85% - Based on the completion, retention, and graduation rates
15% - Based on compliance with Grad Act (If not in compliance, the university will not have the ability to increase tuition)

Don Bloxom is coordinating the lighting project in the Library and BE building. The work will be completed at night.

Kirsten Fiser, Associate Director of Human Resources Management, reported that the annual enrollment deadline is Friday, April 29th. There may be bonus coverage in the dental vision plan. Cigna was awarded the health insurance contract for three years. The HRA may be affected, but preventive care is still covered under the plan. Dependent children may be added up to age 26.

Julie Lessiter, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, reported the university has sent the final report concerning the Grad Act. LSUS is currently meeting our goals in four areas: student success, transfer articulation, institutional effectiveness, and workforce.

The SACS reaffirmation report is due every 10 years. The 5th mid-year report was due on March 15th. The results should come in mid-summer. As part of the reaffirmation report, departments will need to develop a mission statement. The departments will then be measured each year to see if goals are being met.
Old/Current Business
There is no old/current business to report.

New Business
During this meeting, we will vote for the Staff Senator of the Year. Kirsten Fiser will tally the results and present the award at the Spring Luncheon.

Senator Reports/Committees
Elections – Staff Senate Elections will be conducted until the end of the day April 15th. At this time, there have not been any nominations. The vacant categories include Other Professional, Clerical, and Service Maintenance.

Spring Luncheon – The date, menu, and invitations for the Spring Luncheon have been sent. There will be a choice of fried or baked chicken.

Fellowship Luncheon – This lunch will be held in the Library. Carla Clark will serve as the host. The menu will consist of a baked potato bar. There are 20 attendees signed up.

Comments from Guest
Don Bloxom, Director of Facility Services, commented that the electricity will be turned off on campus Friday, April 22nd. The campus has really done well with energy conservations.

Adjournment
There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 P.M.