The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Katie Simpson at 2:05 P.M. on Wednesday, January 11, 2012.

Staff Senators present included: Darlenna Atkins, Don Bloxom, Faye Lampkin, Daniel Miller, and Barbara Tillman

Staff Senators absent were: Cindy Armstrong, Rebecca Chiles, Susan Gutierrez, Rene McDonald, Alex Mitchell, and Anthony Washington

President’s Comments
President Simpson said that LSUHSC-S sent the Staff Senate a sweet thank-you note for helping with the toy drive.

The Budget Crisis Committee met a couple of times, and cuts are going to be made in other areas so that there are no staff directly affected/no layoffs.

Due to falling participation, the Staff Senate is looking into combining the Faculty and Staff Senates and making it a university-wide Senate; however, most other schools do not have a combined one because the Faculty and Staff Senates have different governing rules. Brown-bag lunches could be resurrected to spur participation. The falling participation could be a result of the budget cuts and apathy on campus. The Chancellor and all four Vice Chancellors used to attend every meeting so that the Staff Senate would have word from administration. In years past, the President would have a standing monthly meeting with the Chancellor and then maybe try to have him attend. Bill Wolfe in Human Resources suggested that some members may not be able to leave their offices for about 45 minutes once a month because the budget cuts have caused more job duties when staff leave and are not replaced. Maybe the Chancellor could endorse attendance or encourage supervisor support. Or maybe an email with a more detailed agenda could be sent out ahead of time. Another idea was to partner with Human Resources to coordinate a brown-bag lunch during common hour. A final idea was to provide refreshments to attract staff.

President Simpson is looking into a Faculty/Staff Senate baseball tailgate on Saturday, April 14, which is the same day as a recruiting event and will then look at the basketball schedule.

Treasury Report
Treasurer Daniel Miller reported the balances of the Staff Senate’s account.

- We have a balance of $23.16 in the Campus Federal Support Fund and $2,329.97 in the self-generated Staff Senate Support Fund. The grand total of Staff Senate Support Funding is $2,353.13.

Guest Administrator Reports
Mike Ferrell, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, reported that we are working at bare minimum and feeling the pinch in every department. We are going to use some restricted funds/salary savings and at the total maximum number of employees. The focus is trying to protect people’s jobs with the possibility of another cut/freeze at the end of the year. There is a lawsuit trying to amend the Rainy Day Fund and which money goes in it. The Revenue-Estimating Committee met for a bunch of exemptions like a refund for the severance tax.

Bill Wolfe, Director of Human Resources, reminded that Human Resources had disseminated an employee satisfaction survey that is completely anonymous and confidential, so please spread the word. Also, the Civil Service Commission is making reforms, which may trigger training for classified employees. They are trying to separate the cost of living differences, and it is a single day for the review.

Old/Current Business
There is no old/current business to report.

New Business
There is no new business to report.

Comments from Guest
Amanda Hayes from Campus Federal Credit Union passed out a flyer on their training modules that enhance money skills and banking relationships, and this is a service free of charge to the LSUS community.

Minutes from the December 14, 2011 meeting were approved as written (Don Bloxom motioned to approve, Darlenna Atkins seconded the motion, motion passed).
Adjournment
Don Bloxom motioned to adjourn, Darlenna seconded the motion. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 P.M.