The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Katie Simpson at 2:01 P.M. on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

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

Staff Senators absent were: Rebecca Chiles, Rene McDonald, Alex Mitchell, and Anthony Washington

Minutes from the February 15, 2012 meeting were approved as written (Don Bloxom motioned to approve, Faye Lampkin seconded the motion, motion passed).

Guest Administrator Reports
Chancellor Marsala discussed the possibility of the LSU Shreveport/Louisiana Tech merger and believes that it was prematurely filed with the legislature. The Eva Klein Report said that a cost-benefit analysis should be done, but one has not. There must also be an agreement as to which programs will be merged. The LSU System is vigorously opposed to the bill for the merger, and it is a unanimous vote. Chancellor Marsala has personally visited with the legislators and encourages you to let your feelings be known. We will know more by next Wednesday or Thursday. The donors are split – they do not see the benefit of the merger and believe that we should work with LSUHSC-S. Even though there has been talk about this for years, it is all politics and just an opportune time.

Jorji Jarzabek, Faculty Senate President, said that increasing out-of-state tuition and fees was discussed to help with the falling enrollment numbers, but she did not believe that was a good idea. The faculty is going to join with Admissions and Records for recruiting. It is important for the campus to stay positive and maintain a marketing approach. The staff is not receiving all of the faculty emails regarding the merger. The Faculty Senate has developed a faculty survey via Survey Monkey, and there is also a Facebook page called No Merge LSUS.

Bill Wolfe, Director of Human Resources, discussed the proposed changes to LASERS and TRSL retirement plans. There are four items of significance that the legislature will act on: (1) proposal to increase the retirement age from 55 to 67 (those who are already 55 before July 1, 2012 will be grandfathered in), (2) increase employee contributions from 8 to 11 percent, (3) increase the final average compensation from 3 to 5 years for benefit calculation purposes, and (4) cash balance plan and defined contribution plan for new hires. The first proposal is the most controversial. You may write as a private citizen to the legislators, but do not do it on state time or using state equipment.

President’s Comments
Since Mike Ferrell, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs could not be here, President Simpson discussed the budget updates. Enrollment numbers are down because there are increased admissions standards/criteria, particularly for transfer students. By fall 2014, we cannot admit students who need remedial courses. They are looking at increasing fees to help the deficit.

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

The Staff Senate Support Fund currently has a balance of $2,690.45. This balance is net of all expenses pertaining to the basketball tailgate party. All expenses and revenue transactions pertaining to the tailgate have been cleared.

Old/Current Business
There were 27 people in attendance at the LSUS Staff Senate Basketball Tailgating Party on Monday, February 27, so it was a good turnout.

New Business
The Staff Senate is going to draw up a resolution in response to the LSU Shreveport/Louisiana Tech merger study and possibly call an emergency meeting.

In selecting a date for the Spring Luncheon, Wednesday, May 2 and Thursday, May 3 are possibilities; however, May 3 was selected because there might be better attendance on a Thursday. We should make sure to have a non-pork option and be aware of any other dietary needs.

Wednesday, April 25 is a possibility for the fellowship luncheon with Campus Federal Credit Union.
**Senator Reports/Committees**
Elections are coming up soon, so it is time to start looking.

**Comments from Guests**
Eddie Samhan, Director of Accounting Services, noted that the Governor promised that he would not cut higher education.

**Adjournment**
Daniel Miller motioned to adjourn, Don Bloxom seconded the motion. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 P.M.