The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Daniel Miller at 2:05 P.M. on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Staff Senators present included: Susan Gutierrez, Cheryl Irvin, Faye Lampkin, Katie Simpson, Chelsey Chance (proxy for Barbara Tillman), Marilyn Thomas, Linda Wimbley, and Christianne Wojcik.

Staff Senators absent were: Rebecca Chiles and Alex Mitchell

Minutes from the April 11, 2012 meeting were not available for approval, so this was tabled to the agenda of the September 2012 meeting.

President’s Comments
President Miller welcomed Senators and guests. He stated that it was a pleasure to serve as President. He congratulated the new Staff Senators and thanked them for serving.

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

The Staff Senate Support Fund(s) currently have a net balance of $2,975.91. Since our last Staff Senate Meeting we have collected $118.66 in payroll contributions. All transactions pertaining to the Spring Luncheon have cleared; also, the Campus Federal Support Funds have been exhausted. There are no further transactions pending for Staff Senate Fund(s).

Guest Administrator Reports
Mike Ferrell provided the report for Business Affairs. He has just returned from Baton Rouge where he was following the status of the LSUS/Tech merger bill. He stated that the bill did not come to a vote because there was not enough for a 2/3 majority, and this is what we (LSUS Administration) anticipated. Representative Carmody will submit a proposal regarding the LSU Commitment Plan which will include a request for reports on enrollment each semester. Mike stated that the rumor was that as of Monday evening, there weren’t enough votes to pass the merger bill, so the proposal was drafted. The merger bill is basically dead. It can still be brought back up, but it would still need the 70 (2/3) votes to pass. We owe gratitude for Representatives Tarver, Norton, and Buffington as well as Senators Adley and Peacock for their support.

The next battle is the budget. With the current budget proposal, LSUS would receive a 3.6-4 million dollar reduction in state aid. In 2008, we received 19 million in state aid, and that would be reduced to 8.5 million or less if the budget is approved as is without the addition of the one-time money that is being considered. Our funding formula has shifted from 60% state/40% student to 30% state/70% student. The stabilization fee bill is dead. We hope that the Senate will replace the one-time money that the House removed. Senator Irvin asked Mike to confirm that tuition and fees would be increasing for the fall. He confirmed that tuition and fees will increase 10% for resident and 15% for non-resident students. Senator Irvin asked if LSUS would still have 300 non-resident fee waivers, and Mike stated that this is still to be determined; we’ll have to wait and see about the budget. As a side comment, Mike added that the Pilots Baseball team is #1 in the country and leaves next week for the World Series.

Bill Wolfe provided a report from Human Resources. There is a new performance evaluation system for classified employees. The biggest difference between this and previous systems is that everyone will be evaluated on the same calendar, so it should be easier for supervisors. They have also added a 2nd level evaluation to the process, so trainings will be scheduled to address these changes. Bill has been working with Mike Ferrell on developing an evaluation system for non-classified employees (there is already one for classified and faculty). This may be rolled out at the same time as the new system for classified employees. Bill will continue to send out updated on the pending retirement legislation. It has gotten better, but there are still some sections that may not pass. Mike Ferrell added here that an item has been added stating that no changes will be made until the 4% step increase is returned. Mike also stated that once the legislation has been finalized, there will be plenty of information available online, but it hasn’t gotten to the House yet.

Old/Current Business
There was no old/current business.

New Business
President Miller appointed Ken Seale to fill the vacant Senator position in the Technical/Paraprofessional category. President Miller also pointed out that there is still a vacancy for the Service/Maintenance category, so let him know if anyone has any recommendations for this spot. Nominations opened for the Secretary position. President Miller
nominated Katie Simpson who accepted the nomination. Faye moved to close nominations, and the motion was seconded by Christianne Wojcik and passed unanimously. Nominations were opened for the Vice President position. Cheryl Irvin nominated Barbara Tillman. As proxy for Barbara, Chelsey Chance accepted the nomination. Katie Simpson moved to close nominations, and Cheryl Irvin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Nominations opened for the Treasurer position. Christianne Wojcik nominated Labroderick Standokes who accepted. Katie Simpson moved to close nominations, and Faye Lampkin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The next item of new business was a discussion about the dates and times for the monthly Staff Senate meetings. President Miller pointed out that having the meeting at the same time each month may make it difficult for people on flex schedules or who teach courses to attend. After discussion and suggestions, Katie Simpson moved that the bylaws be changed to say that monthly meetings will be scheduled during the second week of each month for a flexible day and time to be determined by the executive committee.

President Miller stated that a Senator has asked him about how the Staff Senate term years were set up and why they were from May – April. President Miller asked Don Bloxom who was present for information on this history of this topic. Don explained that the Staff Senate was modeled after other Senates at universities around the state. They decided to skip June-August for meetings because they noticed a drop in participation during that month. He pointed out that a special meeting could always be called during the summer months if needed. Don recalled that when writing the constitution and bylaws, there was extensive discussion about balloting and the time that the President & officers would be elected. The plan was for the outgoing Senate to elect the President, and the new Senators would have the chance to elect the officers. There was also the hope that the Vice President would become the President.

**Senator Reports/Committees**
President Miller mentioned the standing committees that are in the constitution. He stated that if these committees remain, we will need people to serve on them. Don Bloxom requested to speak and suggested that the Senate review the committees and determine whether they were still relevant and/or necessary. He pointed out that the Senate can always form an ad hoc committee to address a specific issue when needed. President Miller stated that the committees would be reviewed over the summer, and this topic will be discussed again in the September meeting.

**Comments from Guests**
Riley Young, professor of Criminal Justice, thanked all of the people who helped to keep the merger from happening. He stated that people needed to recognize that complacency and contentment have led us to this point and that the “field of dream mentality” has to cease. He pointed out that the people who put the merger bill together are still there, and that we should remember who was with us and who was against us during this time.

**Adjournment**
President Miller thanked the Senators again for their service. He pointed out that each Senator was nominated and agreed to serve, so he requested that everyone participate in the meetings and send a proxy if you are unable to attend. He welcomes any ideas for helping increase participation and relevance with the Staff Senate.

Faye Lampkin motioned to adjourn, Cheryl Irvin seconded the motion. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 P.M.