The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Daniel Miller at 2:04 P.M. on Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

Staff Senators present included: Rebecca Chiles, Susan Gutierrez, Cheryl Irvin, Faye Lampkin, Daniel Miller, Katie Simpson, LaBroderick Standokes, Ken Seale, Barbara Tillman, and Christianne Wojcik.

Staff Senators absent were: Marilyn Thomas, Linda Wimbley and Alex Mitchell

Minutes from the April 2012 (Senator Lampkin motioned, Senator Irvin 2nd) and May 2012 (Senator Irvin motioned, Senator Seale 2nd) meeting were approved with no changes.

President’s Comments
President Miller thanked Interim Chancellor Sisson, who was present, for the kickoff event. He stated that it provided a much needed morale boost. He feels that LSUS is turning in the right direction.

Treasury Report
Senator Standokes reported the balances of the Staff Senate’s account. At the conclusion of the last academic year, the Staff Senate Support Fund(s) ending balance was $2,695.74. The current balance is $2,906.57. Since our last Staff Meeting we have collected $210.83 in payroll contributions. As of this moment, there are no current transactions pending for the Staff Senate Fund(s).

Guest Administrator Reports
Interim Chancellor Sisson stated that the kickoff meetings were a good way to start the year with the entire campus together. He plans to repeat the events each year. He thanked all of the faculty and staff members who worked hard over the summer reaching out to students. This includes the FORCE committee, made up of staff, faculty and alumni. Trey Gibson is the Chair, and Dr. Sisson stated that anyone can volunteer to assist this committee. The more contact we have with students, the better. Dr. Sisson stated that the enrollment numbers bounced around all summer and are not yet official, but it looks like we’ll only be down by about 30 students. Compared to the harsh predictions, this is good news. First-time freshmen increased from 315 to 367, and the number of dual enrollment students broke 1000 for the first time (about 1030-1040). We are on target to meet our Grad Act goals. The budget crisis committee met over the summer. There was a 1.9 million dollar cut to deal with, but we’re still in good shape. Mark your calendars for the LSU vs. Alabama Tailgate party at LSUS on November 3 – more details to come.

Vice Chancellor Ferrell reported that more trees are dying on campus, so they will have to be taken down. He reminded staff that open enrollment is coming up, and he encourages staff members to attend meetings and ask questions. We should have the new premiums and find out more information by November 1st, but these usually come out at the last minute. Mr. Ferrell also informed us that everyone (faculty, staff and students) is automatically signed up for RAVE, the emergency alert system.

Bill Wolfe added that the Benefits Fair will be on October 9th. He encourages staff members to attend to find out about changes in benefit plans. Performance evaluations for classified staff are in full swing. The goal is to implement the same evaluation form for unclassified staff with a target date of January 1, 2013. President Miller asked Mr. Wolfe if there was any new information about the reporting law. After confirming that President Miller was referring to reporting abuse, he stated that the Governor had issued a decree, and LSUS is developing a child protection plan to coincide with the decree.

Old/Current Business
Old business included a vote to change the bylaws regarding the monthly meeting times. Senator Simpson read the portion of the minutes from the May meeting with the proposed change. The vote was unanimous to make the change. Meetings will now be held during the second week of the month on a day and time determined by the Executive committee. The bylaws will be edited to reflect this change.

New Business
There was no new business

Senator Reports/Committees
President Miller stated that he believes the current standing committees should remain in place, but they don’t need to meet unless necessary. He said that a more official committee should be formed to handle events such as the holiday luncheon, spring luncheon, tailgates, and fellowship luncheons. After discussion, Senator Simpson motioned that an ad hoc committee be formed called the Special Events Committee. Senator Irvin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. President Miller volunteered to be Chair of the committee and Senators Gutierrez, Chiles, Lampkin, Irvin and Simpson all volunteered for the committee. Senator Irvin suggested that we promote the Staff Senate Support form more often, possibly by attaching it to each event invitation. President Miller stated that a date needed to be selected soon for the Holiday Luncheon.

Senator Chiles stated that she needs a staff member to serve on the Traffic Appeals Committee, so let her know if you are interested or have a recommendation.

Senator Irvin discussed several LSUS fees (application, registration, transcript, graduation) that she believes are low compared to other schools. She also brought up that the application fee is not mandatory during the application process, so a student who applies and never enrolls, never has to pay the fee. She believes there are several fees that could be increased or implemented to increase revenue. Dr. Sisson recommended forming an ad hoc committee to collect information and compare LSUS fees to other institutions. President Miller motioned to create the committee, Senator Simpson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Senators Irvin and Lampkin volunteered to co-chair the committee.

Senator Simpson stated that the fall Pilot Preview Day for prospective students will also be held on November 3rd, and she encouraged staff to invite high school students to attend.

**Comments from Guests**
Adnam Samhan commented that the Fellowship luncheons were popular and encourages the Staff Senate to start them back up as soon as possible.

**Adjournment**
Senator Simpson motioned to adjourn, Senator Chiles seconded the motion. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 P.M.