The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Elmer Tingler at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, February 10, 2010. Staff Senators present included: Cindy Armstrong, Darlenna Atkins, Alicia Atkins, Alex Mitchell, Tulin Melancon, Katie Simpson, Elmer Tingler, Rene McDonald and Roger West.

Staff Senators absent were: Rita Lott, Becky Berry, Don Bloxom, Roderick Blue, Terry Byrd, Chelsey Chance, Bridget Verret, Anthony Washington. Minutes from the January 20, 2009 Staff Senate meeting were approved with few corrections (Roger West motioned for approval, motion carried).

President’s Comments
President Elmer Tingler had an online meeting with Staff Council. There was not a lot to report. He also reported that there was no budget meeting took place for the last two weeks.

Elmer Tingler announced Rene McDonald as a new senator to replace Darlene Player’s seat for the Clerical Category.

Elmer Tingler suggested moving the Guest Administrators Reports after the Treasurer’s Report in the monthly Agenda. This way, if they need to leave early, they will be able to for other commitments.

Treasurer’s Report
Chelsey Chance was not in the Staff Senate meeting but provided Treasurer’s Report to the president via e-mail and it is distributed among the senators by Elmer Tingler via e-mail. During the Staff Senate meeting, we decided that the Treasurer’s Report will be presented by Chelsey Chance during the March Staff Senate meeting.

Guest Administrator Reports
Mike Ferrell reported that at this time there is nothing to discuss because nothing changed since the last Staff Senate meeting. They will know more about the proposed budget and unfunded mandates in the following weeks. He also reported that we do not know the increases may take place on health insurance till April 2010 which will take effect in July 2010.

He reported that we have 686 dual enrollments and sport teams are winning.

Current/Old Business
Mike Ferrell reported that LSUS mascot the Pete rode in the Highland Parade.

New Business
Cindy Armstrong suggested that she wants to discuss the new changes may take place with the staff senate senators if LSUS decides to go to four day work week. She suggested that, this information needs to be known to the public so they know when LSUS staff will be available to the public. She asked the senator’s input on this matter. Senators agreed that the times to be open to the public needs to be determined by each department.

Tisha Samhan reported that during the Dean’s Council meeting, LSUS may choose academic week as four day week, but not the rest of the campus because there were no drastic savings. She also mentioned that the deadline for the summer classes is March 15, 2010 and we really do not have time to make these changes on timely manner.

Mike Ferrell brought up some ideas that to consider in regards to the four day work week.
1. It will not save us any money unless the university is totally shut down.
2. Four day work week may be a perk to the staff, but no pay increases will be given.
3. LSUS services to the community issues must be considered.

Eddie Samhan suggested that, after each Budget Meeting the president should bring the discussions to the Staff Senate to keep the senators informed and involved with the status of the budget cuts.

Elmer Tingler suggested each senator to call our category we represent and ask their opinion on the LSUS official office hours and their preference on LSUS hours. Elmer will provide an updated list to each senator.

Bart Riggins ask a question on retirement and eligibility for teachers or state. Mike Ferrell stated that they had a proposal for retirement, but it was rejected. They sent another proposal and they are waiting their answer. All of these proposals will be in effect in July 1, 2010.

Senator Reports/Committees
Admissions and Records will participate in the Home Coming for 2010. Elmer Tingler will send a reminder on the door decorations for Home Coming.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.