The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Elmer Tingler at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, Jan 20, 2010. Staff Senators present included: Cindy Armstrong, Don Bloxom, Chelsey Chance, Darlenna Atkins, Alicia Atkins, Alex Mitchell, Tulin Melancon Katie Simpson, Elmer Tingler, Roderick Blue, and Roger West. Staff Senators absent were: Rita Lott, Becky Berry, Terry Byrd, Bridget Verret, Anthony Washington and Darlene Player.

Minutes from the December 16, 2009 Staff Senate meeting were approved.

**President’s Comments**
President Elmer Tingler met with the Budget Committee. During the budget meeting, they talked about mid-year budget cuts and anticipating cuts for upcoming year cuts. He stated that, everyone tries to be proactive during these hard times.

**Treasurer’s Report**
Treasurer Chelsey Chance stated that, payroll deductions for 1/5/2010 are $833.93. We currently have total funds of $1,380.40. Campus Federal Fund has a balance of $23.16. Their donation amount of $250 dollars is used for the Christmas Luncheon decorations. All accounts are updated and the Treasurer’s report is accepted by the staff senators.

**Current/Old Business**
Tulin Melancon brought the previous suggestion to participate in the parades during the parade season. Don Bloxom offered his suggestions and gave great ideas on how to approach this suggestion more practically. Majority of the senators agreed that LSUS float can be used for many parade functions. Don Bloxom made a motion to have an Ad hock Committee established and all were in favor to create a committee. Elmer Tingler will host the first meeting. Don Bloxom and Katie Simpson will serve in this committee.

**Guest Administrator Reports**
Mike Ferrell provided detailed information on the budget cuts. There will be another cut by June 2010. They do not know the exactly how this cut will affect LSUS, but they are brainstorming on options to cut expenses. He provided some examples: Any vacant positions are not fulfilled; student labor is now under each department’s control. They are not eliminating student workers, but their budget will be only based on the amount spent on department level.

He also talked about termination and retirement funds allocated for the employees. Their pay, annual leave and sick leaves are all calculated. After an employee retires, their positions will be frozen. This will allow us to save money. We supposed to keep higher education level by 2006 level, but we are below that level. Because of this reason, state will ask for a waiver of stimulus money. The Chancellor will have open meetings to keep us informed as things evolve. They are also thinking 4 day, 10 hour work days for summer school. This suggestion is still in discussion stage. They are looking everyone’s benefit, if they make this decision.

From now on, the president Elmer Tingler will send senators an email about the discussions on budget meetings. Kimberly Thornton announced LSUS Homecoming. This year’s theme is “Clash of the Gods”. The event is scheduled for Feb 17-20, 2010. She asked staff Senate to sponsor the event by sending email to faculty and staff and invite everyone to participate in decorate doors. Staff Senate agreed to help promote the event. They have about 15 activities for Homecoming.

**New Business**
No new business discussed.

**Senator Reports/Committees**

**Election Committee** - One of the senators asked how long each senator should serve since we have a brand new senators serving in the senate. Elmer Tingler suggested to the Elections Committee to come up with a plan of action and Tulin Melancon presented the list on staff senators and their terms to the staff senate. There were discussions on the list and staff senate election process. There was a motion to move on to adapt the new staff senate member and terms list and it is approved.

**Tailgating Committee** – Tail Gate Committee Report: The committee did not meet yet for this semester. Elmer Tingler suggested that, February 20, during the Homecoming weekend we can have a pizza party during the men’s basketball game.

**Election Committee** – No report

**Brown Bag Lunches** – Chelsey Chance has a report for brown bag luncheons. Eddie Samhan agreed to be our first brown bag luncheon. It will start in February 2010

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.