The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Elmer Tingler at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. Staff Senators present included: Cindy Armstrong, Darlenna Atkins, Alicia Atkins, Roderick Blue, Chelsey Chance, Rita Lott, Alex Mitchell, Tulin Melancon, Katie Simpson, Elmer Tingler, Bridget Verret and Rene McDonald.

Minutes from the February 10, 2010 Staff Senate meeting were approved with a revision.

President’s Comments
President Elmer Tingler stated that the Staff Advisors Meeting information was distributed to the members very late, therefore they could not attend to the meeting. He also stated that, there was no Budget Cut Meeting since the last one.

Treasurer’s Report
Chelsey Chance reported that, we have total of $1,665.23 dollars in our account. Senate accepted the Treasurer’s Report.

Guest Administrator Reports
Mike Ferrell sent an email to Elmer Tingler and stated that he will not be able to attend to the meeting to inform staff senate about the budget cuts and other issues but he provided some information to Elmer Tingler on variety of subjects via email. Elmer Tingler read some of his email messages and he will send Mike Ferrell’s email messages to the Staff Senators.

DeAnn Arnold informed Staff Senate about the Retirement Plan, annual enrollment and dental and vision plans.

Current/Old Business
Elmer Tingler stated that during January 2010 Staff Senate meeting there were lots of discussions in regards to four day work week. As a Staff Senate we planned to conduct a survey among the staff and collect some information if LSUS goes to four day work week. But, Mike Ferrell suggested to Elmer Tingler that, since the Governor will not cut the higher education, we may hold off on the survey to eliminate any confusion among the staff because this option may not even be at the table. Staff Senate decided that we may come back to this issue in a later time if needed. The Chancellor requested Elmer Tingler to inform Staff Senate that nothing is decided on four day work week option yet and he will let everyone know if there is any decision made on the subject matter.

Bart Riggins stated that we still do not know the final budget cut outcome.

New Business
John Kay from the SGA Student Government Association wanted to share with the Staff Senate that they have been working on “smoking on campus” issue and SGA has passed a bill to restrict smoking on campus. He asked both the Staff Senate and Faculty Senate to support this bill.

There were some discussion among the Staff Senate members and the guests on the issue. Elmer Tingler asked this to be a new business for the next month and asked each senator to get back with their group they represent to inform them about the issue. Ultimately, the Chancellor will make the final decision.

Month of March was our deadline to elect the new President Elect for 2010 Staff Senate. Staff Senators nominated Chelsey Chance, Cyndi Armstrong and Rita Lott. Cyndi Armstrong and Rita Lott did not accept the nominations, but Chelsey Chance accepted the nomination and became the President Elect for 2010 Staff Senate.

Senator Reports/Committees

Spring Luncheon Committee:
Chelsey Chance informed the Staff Senate that the Spring Luncheon Committee met last week and they wanted to combine Year of Service Award and Spring Luncheons, but after checking with the Chancellor, they decided to keep each event separate. They offered two ideas and also were open ideas from the Staff Senate. One option would be the “Garden Party Theme” with light luncheon options such as variety of salads and sandwiches. The other option would be the “Barbeque Lunch” with barbeque chicken, brisket, salad and dessert. They offered a theme with “Hat Contest” if staff chooses to participate. Staff Senate members decided to go with the Barbeque with an option for this year’s spring luncheon.

The date is set for April 23, 2010. During the Spring Luncheon, the yearly staff senate awards will be given as well.

Tailgate Committee:
Elmer Tingler will check and see if we can have a tailgate party on Friday night, April 30, 2010 as last regular season for Baseball.

As the final comment from the floor, Dr. Gloria Raines suggested that Admission staff should come and present an annual report to the staff senate before the end of the semester. Elmer Tingler will add this request to the April 2010 meeting agenda.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.