The LSUS Staff Senate meeting was called to order by President Christianne Wojcik at 11:11 am on Friday, May 17, 2013.

Staff Senators present included:

Staff senators absent were:

Minutes from April 2013 meeting were approved with no changes (motion by Sen. Miller, 2^rd by Sen. Wimbley)

President’s Comments

Senator Miller expressed special thanks for those who helped with set-up, decorations, etc. for the Spring Luncheon, especially Dr. Alexander, the bookstore who printed the programs, the UC for set-up and the Port for lunch.

Treasury Report

Sen. Miller reported a balance of $2,388.00 with no pending transactions. $120.00 was collected in payroll deductions and $560.00 was collected for the Spring Luncheon. Non-food items totaled $192.00, food totaled $1,342.00.

Old Business

Funding for Staff Senate travel
No established travel fund.
In April, Dr. Sisson approved use of discretionary funds for travel by the Staff Senate. These approved funds were not needed because Pres. Wojcik and Sen. Miller were able to travel with Faculty Senator Jarzabek to the meeting in Baton Rouge. The Council is encouraged to create an account within the system for travel to the Baton Rouge campus.

Meeting with Dr. Alexander

A meeting with Dr. Alexander was held prior to the Staff Senate Luncheon where Dr. Alexander expressed support to staff and an interest in collaborating across the board. He was interested in hearing concerns regarding communications (no news=rumors, not sustainable) and LSU 2015. Sen. Miller addressed any comments, concerns he was provided with by staff members to Dr. Alexander. The three main points of the meeting were, transparency, morale, and unity. Sen. Miller noted the tone with the meeting of Dr. Alexander and staff was more upbeat than the meeting including the faculty members.

New Business

Election of 2013-2014 Executive Officers
Vice President: Brooke Rinaudo nominated and elected
Treasurer: Nicki McLain nominated by Sen. Miller with a second by Sen. Wimbley
Secretary: Pamela Corbit nominated by Sen. Miller and will begin duties in August

**Summer Social**
Because the Staff Senate will be in hiatus during the summer months, a socialization meeting is proposed for July with organization by Sen. Wynn, Sen. Rinaudo, and Sen. Miller

**Save the Date**
August 16, 2013: “Welcome Back to Campus”.

**Fall Meeting Schedule**
Typically will be the second week of the month
**Notify Christianne if there is a recurring conflict with meeting times**

**Name Badges and “Feet on the Street” Marketing of LSUS**
Name badges with new logo are available to anyone at LSUS
This includes name, title, dept.
Cost: $6.77-Not included in the budget

**Senator Reports/Committees**

**Chancellor’s Search Committee**
Chairs: Eddie Samhan, Kristin Fiser
Committee met last week and discussed go-ahead for forums
Faculty-holding forum today (May 17, 2013)
Staff forum projected for Fall

**Budget Crisis Committee**
Sen. Miller reported more cuts anticipated and scholarships may be affected
Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs Mike Ferrell reported plans for the House Appropriations Committee to strip 400-500 million from the budget-awaiting house approval
Contingency: sale of property, settlement of lawsuits
Senate put 400-500 million back in via a different format
22% cut-$208,000
State direct-contingency-may not materialize until April-June 2014
Consequences of budget cut: Take back student financial aid
$350,000 moved over from state directed statutory
House spread amongst everyone
As information surfaces, Christianne will notify staff members

**Administrator Q&A**

**Chancellor**
The idea of a forum has been discussed at length. Staff welcomed to ask questions of Drs. Sisson, Vassar, and Butterbaugh

Sen. Corbit addressed Dr. Sisson regarding tuition exemption (PM 12) for staff members and requested the expansion of 6 semester hours to more hours eligible under tuition exemption. Dr. Sisson agreed but noted presidential backing was a necessity
Mike Ferrell noted that each individual campus paid for educational benefits. $80,000-90,000 in lost tuition.

LSUHSC is in the process of privatizing the hospital and will no longer offer tuition exemption benefits to employees.

Sen. Miller motioned to propose to the chair of the PM12 Committee a change in the wording of the definition. Second by Sen. Corbit.

Sen. McLain described it as “lost revenue”

**VC of Business Affairs**

Mike Ferrell reported the Board of Regents wants to know what money is being exempted.

LSUHSC would send us money for the exemption we are making.

Sen. Corbit brought up 8 Week classes and online classes. Taking 2 classes/semester would take “forever to graduate.”

Dr. Sisson agreed that LSUS Accelerated classes were created to allow students more flexibility.

He motioned to examine PM 12 with a second from Sen. Rinaudo.

**VC of Academic Affairs**

Dr. Vassar briefly discussed the proposed Doctorate of Education (EDD)

Eddie Samham warned to “be careful not to stir the pot” regarding the examination of PM 12.

Shelby Keith brought up 100% online degrees and questioned if staff would be eligible to take classes through the LSU BR campus.

Eddie Samhan brought up the topic of FORCE committee and expressed his concern that he was not qualified to make phone calls to students who had not yet registered. There is also a lack of communication on who are the contact people for problems. Eddie offered to donate staff to make phone calls.

Student Workers in Admissions and Records call students who have been dropped from classes due to nonpayment.

Staff must follow FERPA guidelines when dealing with confidential information.

Social media can be utilized, thus we are not compromising confidential information.

Phone calls made to students are outside regular duties. Volunteers receive no additional compensation but will be involved in recruiting and retention collaboration with other staff and faculty members.

A flip chart was suggested with a listing of key people and contacts phone numbers in depts.

**VC of Student Affairs**

Randy Butterbaugh suggested a response to students with questions regarding financial aid and admissions be “We will have someone call you.”

FYI: Text sent out to students who have not yet enrolled.

New system, more computer prompting-way to mitigate problems with the new generation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm. Motion by Sen. Corbit, 2nd by Sen. Wimbley.