



November 17, 2016
DSC Room 205D
11:00am-12:00pm

❖ Welcome

- Call to order by Laura McClellan at 11:04 a.m.

❖ Roll Call

- Sign-in sheet was distributed. Those present by signature were:

Laura McClellan	Mark Pellegrini	Drew Glover	Amber Krum
Jonathan Smith	Rena Burt	Marian Jones	Taiquera McNeely
Heyam Dannawi	Pam Ashley-Williams	Jack Tipshus	Rodolfo Morales
Elizabeth Clements	Valarie Abrams	Patrick Newton	Kevin Lewis
Angelita Faller	Erin Fehr	James Anthony Blevins	
Thomas Redd Jr	Belinda White	Danielle Hendrix	

❖ Review October minutes

- Motion to accept by Jonathan Smithy, seconded.

❖ Treasurer's report

- Treasurer resigned from UALR, seat to be filled.
- Current Balance: \$627.72.
- Three accounts currently for Staff Senate:
 - Staff Senate agency account: fall open house, helping hands, general operating account, rolls over year-to-year: \$627.72.
 - Budget line item account: spring staff achievement awards: \$4,703.64.
 - New account: professional development: \$2,000.00, rolls over.
- nominations:
 - Jonathan Smith & Dara Goad nominated.
 - Jonathan Smith volunteered, seconded by Drew Glover, confirmed majority "aye".

❖ Quick Notes

- Personal 'thank you' from Laura McClellan to Mark Pellegrini and other senators for a successful Fall Open House.

❖ Dr. Andrew Wright, Faculty Senate President

- Welcome to questions and open communication.
- There are a number of Faculty Senate committees that have seats for staff to fill, such as:
 - Environmental impact
 - Traffic (traffic & parking)
 - includes also ticket appeals
 - Catastrophic leave
 - Athletics
 - Library
- Committees are listed on the Faculty Senate web page with descriptions and vacancies
 - <http://ualr.edu/facultysenate/>
- Description of University Assembly, and the role of Faculty Senate and Staff Senate within.
- In a phase of restructuring the strategy plan (?), with possibility of future collaboration of staff and faculty.
- Other large projects may arise with the new Chancellor to provide the opportunity for staff and faculty to collaborate.

❖ Committee Updates

- Fall Open House
 - Successful with +\$1,200 in proceeds: -\$600 Sodexo costs, \$600 net.
 - Next year discussed change of food options or menu options.
- Helping Hands - Rena reported
 - Goal is 120, some items are still missing.
 - Collecting food donations until dec 9th.
 - Collecting monetary donations indefinitely.
 - Applications to be send out November 30th.
- Blood Drive - Mark Pellegrini reported
 - 138 total donors; well above goal.
 - The Red Cross representative left; the organization was not a very strong participant in the blood drive.
 - Wait times were one hour for those with appointments, hour and a half or longer for others.
 - At the follow-up meeting, the possibility to move away from red cross in favor with the arkansas blood institute or another organization was discussed.
- Fundraising
 - No report.

❖ Committee Updates (cont.)

- Communications
 - Stories for Blood Drive & Fall Open House.
 - Updating the Helping Hands webpage.
- Issues and Concerns
 - No new issues & concerns turned in
 - To submit issues, web form on UALR website for any issues other than employee grievances, which should be directed towards HR.
- Public Outreach
 - Reached out to local organizations to discuss their needs for future drives.
- Staff University Development Committee, i.e. Campus Campaign
 - Collections end Dec. 31st.
 - May notify the office for departmental status.
- Staff Professional Development
 - No report
- Staff Governance
 - no report
- Staff Achievement Awards
 - no report
- Staff Awards Ceremony
 - no report
- Nominations
 - no report

❖ Open Forum

- Employee handbooks
 - Classified employee handbook and documents were reported to be last updated in 1989; amended in 1996.
 - HR Staff Senate representative volunteered to take issue back to the HR department.
 - Faculty Handbook not updated since 2000.
 - Was mentioned proper handbooks may be part of the accreditation requirements:
 - <https://www.hlcommission.org/criteria/>
 - 1,2,5 task force in place that should be made aware of these handbook issues.

❖ Open forum (cont.)

- Non-classified Employee Handbook (ad hoc committee)
 - Purpose to investigate the void of non-classified employee guidelines.
 - Committee has been meeting, and is working towards collaborating together documentation.

- Tuition changes at UA system
 - At the top UA system level.
 - Several university campuses already declined changes.
 - Policy advisory meeting this afternoon, and Laura has requested this as a topic of discussion for the meeting.
 - Lack of communication from UA systems.
 - Nothing approached to Dr Wright or the board prior to the announcement in the news article(s).
 - University input was asked from UA universities.
 - Beginning of semester charges when not notified.
 - Concern that masters programs will suffer if UA ruling is adopted at UALR
 - fees for services granted to employees as benefits are still charged to employees taking classes.
 - Staff Senate had legislation passed to include higher-education programs added to university discount, which this undermines.
 - Dr. Wright responded that this UA ruling passed november 10th, the chancellor is aware of this issue and is in the process of discussing UALR plans with respect to the ruling.
 - Dr Wright continued, all employees, including faculty, at the University are concerned over the ruling and the poor communication, but be sure to voice your concerns.

- UARK Staff Senate
 - Reached out to UALR Staff Senate for the opportunity to open communication and working together for common goals between universities.
 - They asked about agricultural senators and a tuition waiver program. Nothing of this nature was known to be presently discussed at UALR.
 - They also asked if UALR had previously distributed a climate survey. It was mentioned that there may have been one in the past for UALR. If anyone has related, please pass to Laura McClellan.
 - Consensus of UALR staff senate are open to the communication, but also to other universities in the UA systems.
 - Example discussed was UAPB aquaculture/agriculture program as a foundation of that university campus, but they do not have an active governing body.

- Next meeting 12/15/2016
 - Consensus to hold meeting as scheduled, confirmed by Laura.

❖ Adjourn

o motion by Thomas Redd Jr