

Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2002

Call to Order; Maurice Welch, President, Presiding.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

A quorum was not present

Senators Present: Ford, Kinney, McAnear, Schuessler, Wade, Cochran, Crocket, Dragich, Cates, Guinn, Chen, Fernandez, Hancock, Hunter, Kitten, Boyer, McDonald, Moore, Nail, Welch, Williams, Burns, Chavez, Miranda, Barron, Snider, Cooper, Johnson. Senators Absent: Bowen, Burdine, Graham, Sims, Tiner, Yeates, Boyer, Rubino, Carson, Goodyear, Marshall, Benton, Lewis, McConnell, Reynolds, Esquibel, Jasper, Segura, Vasquez, Vinson, Lowe.

Minutes from November 6, 2002 Meeting

Minutes reviewed but did not have a quorum, will vote on next month.

Treasure's Report for November 2002

Jeanine Reynolds was not present, report will be given in January.

Committee Reports

Communications/Public Relations Committee-Maurice Welch for Ron Nail

Ron Nail gave thanks for everyone who brought toys for the Toys for Tots program.

The committee has a service project in the works; one is with the Ronald McDonald House. In January 2003, they need help taking down the Christmas tree, and in March or April they need help with their rummage sale. Ron will gather more information and the Staff Senate will receive an e-mail with updates on the January project.

Election Committee

Bill McDonald reports that the special election for EEO Professional Senator, the committee had 6 candidates, and 1 candidate decided not to run. The committee sent out 650 ballots, received 168 back. The new Senator is David Naugher. The alternates will be: 1st-Carolyn Kennedy, 2nd-Jeff Walters, 3rd-Chuck Risley, 4th-Debbie Hobgood. Congratulations to these individuals.

Nominations Committee

Pat Cates reports there was nothing new; still needs some help with the childcare committee.

Bylaws and Constitution Committee

Susan Kitten reports the committee met on December 3, 2002. They were talking about changing the time for officer elections. The committee wants to consider having officer elections in June instead of August. The committee needs input on this from the senators. You can send comments to Susan Kitten or any committee member.

Student Code of Conduct Committee

Chance Dragich reports that the committee had its first meeting on December 3, 2003. The committee has started to rewrite section IX of the Student Affairs Handbook, on Code of Student Conduct for the next school year. The committee had a concern with the departure of Phillip Weathers. The committee asked Chance Dragich to get with the Staff Senate for a replacement or they could find someone from the campus. Chance Dragich asked for a volunteer, and Doug Crockett said he would be glad to step in. Pat Cates will send the information to the Student Judicial Program.

Traffic and Parking Committee

Mary McAnear reported that the committee did not have enough information on how Traffic and Parking does their business, especially the waiting list for the parking garage and lots around campus. Mary was going to see if we could get Eric Crouch to come speak at one of the next meetings. If you have any questions contact Mary. The committee still needs two more members, let's see if we can help them out.

Scholarship Committee

Maria Fernandez reports that the committee is working on a scholarship form the Staff Senate could use for the Fall of 2003.

Jim Brown, Director of Personnel

Jim Brown, guest speaker, came to talk about O.P. 70.18, Educational Incentive Pay. This program is for full time regular staff; and, basically says that the staff can get incentive raises if they continue their education that is in conjunction with their job. Any staff member needs to write a letter to the department manager stating what they are planning to do with their education. The letter will be forwarded to the Vice President involved, or the Provost. There is a limit to one educational incentive raise per year: the B.S., M.S., and PHD, are awarded \$1000, the Associates and GED are awarded \$500. There are certificates and licenses that will be looked at on a per needed basis. This means that if it is in the scope of your job, you may or may not get it. It will have to go over and above you job requirements.

Helen Carter, Employee/Dependent Scholarship

Guest Speaker, Helen Carter, came to speak about Employee/Dependent Scholarships. She handed out a copy of the scholarship form that is sent out each year. The deadline for the spring semester is January 15, 2003. The employee has to be full benefits eligible, and has to take 1-3 hours credit. The employee award is \$300.00 per semester. The dependent of the employee has to be a full-time student with 12 hours for undergraduate, and 9 hours for graduate classes. The award for the dependent is \$600.00 per semester. Both must carry a GPA of 2.5 to be eligible for the awards. The length of awards is 8 semesters for undergraduates, and 4 semesters for graduates. This program is 6 years old and when they first began the awards were \$100 for the employee and \$300 for the dependent. Helen opened the floor for questions:

1. Sherri Snyder asked if the amount of the scholarship has been increased to compensate for the increase in class prices? The scholarship has gone from \$100.00 to \$300.00. The Benefits and Retirement Committee keeps a check on the funds and will make suggestions in the future according to the balance.
2. Mary McAnear asked if the semester would transfer from the University to UMC? The answer is yes.
3. Linda Kinney asked about the accounting degree that gets the BS and MS together? They would have to see where in the program the student is--undergraduate or graduate.
4. Susan Kitten asked how many dependents are eligible? All of them.
5. Maria Fernandez asked how many scholarships, on average, are awarded? In the Fall of 2001, there were 61 undergraduates and 92 graduates. In the Spring of 2002, there were 55 undergraduates and 88 graduates. Right now the scholarship fund is meeting all of the applicant's needs. If more come in than the funds available there will be a tiebreaker for awards.

President's Report-Maurice Welch

Maurice brought up the selection for a new secretary, and wanted some nominations. Pat Cates nominated Maria Fernandez, and Kerri Ford seconded. There were no more nominations, so Susan Kitten made a motion to close nominations and Ron Nail seconded. Since Maria Fernandez was the only nomination she is now the new Staff Senate Secretary.

Maurice wanted to know when would be a good time to have the next senate meeting, and the senators decided January 8, 2003, and the next Executive Board meeting is January 6, 2003.

Maurice brought up the issue of lay-offs on the campus. A follow-up question was asked-- Do the state laws have any references to lay-offs? Maurice Welch presented the question to General Counsel.

Maurice had received e-mail back from Donna Ammons, Executive Administrative Assistant in the Office of General Counsel. Donna states, " I have searched the Education Code, Government Code, and Constitution and there is no statute that addresses the process of layoff, i.e, the consideration of seniority. I have talked to Victor Mellinger, Associate General Counsel and Mike Sanders, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Affairs and they are not aware of any statutes that address this subject."

Announcements

In attendance is Past President Russell Crosby.

Reminder to all committees to notify President Maurice Welch or President-Elect Chance Dragich of meeting times.

Next Staff Senate Meeting: January 8, 2003 p.m. Student Union Senate Room

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn by Susan Kitten and seconded by Pat Cates. Motion carried.