

Staff Senate Meeting

March 15, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Waters Hall Conference Room

Present: Kim Braden, Steve Clark, Mark Gale, Tina Hicks, Damon Lares, Billy McClain, Chris Moss, Felicia Mucci, Molly Pepper, and Sharron Woods

Minutes from the January 19th meeting were accepted and approved with no changes.

Steve Clark thanked new senators, Sharron Woods and Dana Waldrop, for accepting the slots vacated by Katie Holley and Shaun Lockett.

New Business:

1. Impromptu Staff Break – Steve Clark proposed having an impromptu staff break on March 22, similar to the “Throwback Thursday” breaks of last year. Since several staff, including senators, plan to be on leave next Tuesday, it was decided to have the event on Friday, April 1. Steve Clark will approach Terry Stepp about using the popcorn machine to make popcorn for the staff to enjoy. Iced down colas will also be provided. Mark Gale mentioned that a previous institution where he worked used to have a “field day” for the employees where they participated in races, relays, etc. This may be something the Senate will consider doing at a later time.
2. Staff Appreciation Luncheon – The luncheon, scheduled for April 27, is fast approaching. Possible themes for this year’s luncheon were discussed. Some suggestions were Country, Italian, and Mardi Gras (Cajun). Steve Clark will talk with Kimberly Hobbs in the Cafeteria to discuss the food options available to support these themes. Generally, the cost per person is kept at approximately \$7.00. The possibility of including a slide show was discussed, as was holding a raffle that staff can enter by either bringing a canned food item or giving a dollar per ticket. The food and money would be donated to the Limestone County Churches Involved food pantry.
3. Facilitated Collegial Discussion on the Future of Athens State University – In 4-6 weeks, a consultant from Auburn University is expected to be on campus to meet with various campus groups to discuss the future of Athens State University. This is in response to some of the suggestions or recommendations that were made by the Morale Committee. There will be a total of six different sessions. Dr. Glenn would like staff representation, so the Staff Senators will represent the staff at one of these sessions. Senators should solicit input from the staff groups they represent.

Old Business:

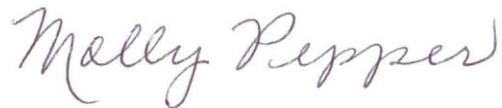
1. Policies Concerning Staff – A bereavement leave policy allowing up to three leave days for staff has now been added to the Policy Library. Tina Hicks reported on the annual leave policy for two other institutions: Jacksonville State and the University of North Alabama. Athens State’s current annual leave policy is the most generous in the number of days allowed to accrue and carry over into a new academic year.

Announcements from Senate Members

1. Chris Moss asked for a follow-up from Steve regarding the current condition of the maintenance vehicles. Steve has done some investigation and will meet with Mike McCoy this afternoon.
2. Felicia Mucci has been approached by a staff member wondering about tuition waivers for the MBA with the University of North Alabama. There is a perception that the existence of waivers is being kept a secret. While it is not widely known or advertised that tuition waivers for this program exist (and are outlined in the MOU with UNA), it is not intentionally being kept secret. All of the new Athens State graduate programs allow or will allow tuition waivers for Athens State employees.
3. Tina Hicks announced that the Master's in Education is on the ACHE agenda for the June meeting.
4. Steve Clark asked if anyone had received nominations (outside of the emailed nominations) for the John "Booty" Murray Staff Award. As of today, there are three nominees and a fourth that is expected to be submitted.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Pepper.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Pepper". The ink is a light purple or grey color. The signature is written in a fluid, connected style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.