

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE

November 3, 2011

Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order on November 3, 2011 at 9:10 a.m. in the ES-B 2074 Conference Room on the East St. Louis Campus by Mike Hamil, President.

Announcements: At 10:00 Debbie Bayne from Human Resources will speak to the Senate about the new Money Purchase Factor used for retirement.

Present: Bartholomew, Dusenbery, Cobetto, Gibson, Hamil, Harris, Herbeck, Hicks, Pulley, Welter, Candela, Sams, Panel: Mumphard

Excused: Becherer, Downey, Gaffney, McKaig, Nash,

Absent: Bagaglio

Guests: Debbie Bayne, Human Resources, Kirt Ormesher, Facilities Management

Approval of Minutes: The October 6, 2011 minutes were approved as submitted. (Harris/Bartholomew)

Treasurer Report: Jesse B. Harris, Jr. reported from the June 2011 statement; \$4978.71 Benefit Account, \$47373.38 Scholarship Endowment Account. The list of donors continues to grow. Jesse will provide a list of donors for cards to be sent to. The Faculty for Collective Bargaining Organization Scholarship Account balance is \$15432.76. Jesse submitted the report and will be filed with the minutes.

At this time Jesse submitted and read a letter of retirement for December 31, 2011; therefore will not be Treasurer after that date. The letter will be filed with the minutes. After discussion, it was clear that the President of the Staff Senate has the responsibility of appointing a Treasurer. This will be discussed at the Staff Senate Executive Committee meeting on November 17.

Old Business: Jesse B. Harris, Jr. reported that he called Julie Babington about the Phone-a- Thon that is supposed to happen this month.

New Business: Todd Bartholomew invited Kirt Ormesher to the meeting to introduce him to the Senate and as a new Senator to fill the vacant seat in Negotiated and Prevailing constituency. Kirt introduced himself with a brief history of his interests, education and work in horticulture. Greg Herbeck seconded and all **approved**. Kirt Ormesher is now a Senator in the Negotiated and Prevailing constituency.

New Treasurer: With Jesse's retirement, the Treasurer's seat will be open. Jo Gibson suggested Diane McKaig for the Treasurer. Mike Hamil will talk to Diane about the office. The appointment will be determined at the Executive meeting.

Sick and Vacation Leave: Greg Herbeck brought up some questions people in facilities management were having about their current sick and vacation leave balances. There was a discussion and Mike

Hamil will ask Sherrie Senkfor about ways to remedy the problem by maybe having training and or brown bags on the topic.

New Money Purchase Formula for SURS: Debbie Bayne gave a report about the new Money Purchase formula for calculating annuities as part of getting information out to employees eligible to retire in the near future. With the change of the Money Purchase formula, approximately 584 employees' retirements may be affected. These employees are eligible to retire July 2 2012 or after. It will impact retirement for these employees by 7-8% reduction in annuity.

Currently there are two formulas. The General formula is based these numbers: age at retirement, years of service, and their final average earnings. Whereas, the Money Purchase formula is based on: actuarial factors (these will change because of a study that takes demographic and economic situations into consideration), their retirement contributions and any interest they have accumulated.

Debbie encouraged employees to use the estimator on the SURS Web site for calculating their estimated monthly retirement. SURS will need to be the facilitator for employees' retirement planning. The Money Purchase formula is routinely looked at every 5 years, but this change takes place 2 years early.

The change does not affect current Annuitants, Survivor benefit recipients, contributors to the Self managed plan or anyone that started the plan after July 1 2005. Human Resources are providing information so employees may make an informed decision and the right choice. SURS will have to be the facilitator because they have figures where SIUE Human Resources does not. Those employees affected by this issue who do not retire prior to July 2, 2012 may recoup the monthly amount in 10 to 11 months but not the 7 - 8 % loss. The Money Purchase formula has been changed before, but not this dramatically.

There was a discussion. The SUAA Web site has information about retirement issues on it. Mike Hamil thanked Debbie Bayne for coming to the Senate meeting with the information about the new Money Purchase formula. If anyone has any questions, they can be directed to the Human Resources Benefits Web page for more information: <http://www.siu.edu/humanresources/benefits/index.shtml>.

Mike Hamil called a 10 minute break at 10:40 a.m.

Reports

Ex-Officio Reports:

SUCSAC: No report.

Personnel: No report.

SURS: No report.

Panel Reports

Negotiated and Prevailing: Todd Bartholomew reported that the AFSCME employees across Illinois went to the Capitol in Springfield on October 26 to express concern about the pension reforms. He read an article “We Are One”.

Open Range: No report.

Professional Staff: Jesse B. Harris, Jr. reported that the Panel will meet this week when he will get recommendations for a Panel Chair to bring to the next Staff Senate meeting.

Satellite Campus Reports

Alton: Jackie Candela reported that the board exams were last weekend and the Inspector General visited.

East St. Louis: Barbara Sams reported that their Annual Training Day is on Veteran’s Day, Friday, November 11. Theo Jamison, the Program Director of Performing Arts at East St. Louis campus won an award in Chicago for Outstanding Choreography. There is an article about him in the Belleville News Democrat on November 2.

Standing Committees

UPBC: Michael Pulley reported the Vice Chancellor’s are reporting what their divisions are doing campus wide and will then present their requests at a later meeting. UPBC only looks at State funds. Michael reported the progress on the goals of the buildings. Jesse had a question about the possibility of having a shuttle for bio technology labs off the core campus; because it appears the students without transportation are having difficulty arriving on time to labs from the core campus. Michael Pulley will take this to Kenn Nehr for a possible item for the appropriate Vice Chancellor to possibly look into.

Public Relations Committee

Newsletter: William Dusenbery reported that the newsletter will maintain the same format and possibly have a few things added to it. Jackie Candela passed out a draft of the newsletter. There was a discussion about the Civil Service Banquet at this time since there was a question about an announcement in the newsletter.

The Banquet will be in the spring with Diane McKaig, Holly Schott and Cindy Cobetto coordinating for the Staff Senate. This will be added to the agenda as the event gets closer.

Policy Review Committee: Jeff Hicks reported that at the last meeting a safety man from Emergency Management Services talked to the committee about firearms and dangerous chemicals in regards to policy.

Jeff added that the Video Surveillance Committee will be meeting again soon with the Faculty Senate feedback on the policy.

Greg Herbeck added that the policy forms on the Web site are able to be filled in now online. Greg suggested to add in the newsletter about the policies on the Human Resources Web site and possible a Brown Bag about the policies. There was a discussion.

Scholarship Committee: No report.

Fundraising Committee: Jesse B. Harris reported plans still being made to visit the winery in Red Bud for a fundraiser. Julie Babington is still committed to doing the phone-a-thon, but is being delayed still.

Goals Committee: No report.

Other Reports: Jesse reported that a replacement will be needed on the University Center Board for his seat. They meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. chaired by Joseph Pearson. Cindy Cobetto expressed her interest to serve on the committee. Jesse will contact Joseph and the committee about Cindy's interest at the next meeting.

Appointments: Mike Hamil appointed Jodi Olson from Office of the Registrar for Graduate Records to the Graduate School Dean Search Advisory Committee. Mike also received a packet from President Poshard with a request for names of 3 administrative professional employees and 3 civil service employees for the Chancellor's Search Committee of which the President will choose 1 from each of those constituencies. Mike recommended Regina Hayes, Lora Miles and Keith Becherer for Administrative Professional constituency and Brian Lotz, Carolyn Turner and Tony Bennett for Civil Service.

Parking and Traffic: William Dusenbery reported that as construction goes on with the Science building, parking will continue to be impacted into the next year. Some changes are Parking Services Committee will be chaired by Laura Scaturro and William Dusenbery will be chairing Appeals Committee with more changes to come.

Mike Hamil requested recommendations for Cyndi Korte's seat on the Parking and Traffic Committee as her term will be up on January 1. William Dusenbery gave an overview of the committee for anyone that would be interested in serving on it.

Michael Pulley reported that the contract for Tangent will be up in April and a survey about it will be going out soon for everyone to complete.

Adjournment: Jesse B. Harris, Jr. motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

*Approved as submitted December 1, 2011 by the Staff Senate
Vicki Kruse/University Governance*