UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE

November 7, 2013

Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the Staff Senate was called to order on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 9:04 a.m. in the ES-B-2074 Room at the East St. Louis Campus by Michelle Welter, president.

Present: Bartholomew, Connoyer, Dain, Dickey, Dusenbery, Kershaw, Lesicko, Mumphard, Ormesher, Welter, Candela, Becherer

Excused: Gilmore

Announcements

The announcements listed on the agenda:

The Board of Trustees meeting will be at SIUE November 14 and an Open Forum for the Presidential Search will follow. Michelle Welter encouraged everyone to attend, 11:00.

Preview SIUE Monday Nov 11, Veterans Day formal thank you to veterans.

On Nov 18 SIUE and SIUC orchestras will perform at SIUE.

Rachel Stack, pending official Board of Trustees approval on November 14, 2013, will be named the new Vice Chancellor for University Advancement per the email from Chancellor Furst-Bowe.

Consideration of Minutes

The October 3, 2013 and October 9, 2013 minutes were approved as submitted (Bartholomew, Dickey).

Unfinished Business

Special Meeting: Michelle Welter gave a recap of the special meeting on October 9 with Kenn Neher. The discussion was about the Post Office closure. Michelle pointed out that this was brought up in UPBC and did not make it back to the Staff Senate. Michelle expressed her disappointment with the turnout especially since there was no quorum. In the future Michelle pointed out if a special meeting is called that everyone needs to ensure there will be a quorum. Michelle said the meeting was productive and encouraged shared governance and hoped to hear about issues like the closing of the Post Office farther in advance. There was a discussion about UPBC representatives and how they need to provide feedback from meetings. The senate would have heard well in advance of the final decision being made of the closure if they had reported to the Staff Senate. More discussion on why didn’t the Senate have any input on the discussion of the closure. Michelle stated they got input because it went through UPBC. Michelle warned that everyone should all be prepared for cuts. [Recording had static here]
A discussion ensued on the importance and significance of when the Senate is asked to provide feedback, committee appointments or any other matter, that we need to follow through. We have not done a good job in the past few years fully participating in the shared governance opportunities and we need to look inward to ensure we are properly serving our constituents at every opportunity.

There was discussion about contracted employees and one person would lose their job.

Council of Councils: Kirt Ormesher reported on the annual Council of Councils meeting he attended in Chicago on October 18. Next year it will be held at SIU Carbondale.

**New Business**

Sick Leave Bank Discussion: Michelle introduced the topic and gave Bill Dusenbery the floor to begin the conversation about a Sick Leave Bank. Bill gave a summary of some work his constituency has been doing about a sick leave bank. There were questions and suggestions

Michelle offered to get information from other Universities if the Senate is interested. Michelle will add ‘Sick Leave Bank Discussion’ to the agenda.

**Break 10:02 a.m.**

Meeting **resumed** at 10:21 a.m.

FYI: Michelle informed the Senate that the executive committee will take time at the end of their upcoming meeting to look at the Constitution and By-Laws and invited all Senate members to join if they are interested in working on it, also. The executive committee meets on the third Thursday of every month in the International Room.

Fundraising Chair: This was tabled until December meeting. Bill Dusenbery added that Courtney has a Wordmark approved from Marketing and Communications to use on the scholarship brochure and web site.

**Reports**

**SUCCSAC:** No report

**Personnel/VC Administration Designee:** No report

**SURS:** No report

**Panel Reports**

**Negotiated and Prevailing:** Todd Bartholomew reported that negotiations have slowed down. H.R cannot find time to meet with negotiations teams. There was discussion.

**Open Range:** No report
Administrative/Professional Staff: William Dusenbery reported that represented professional staff constituency is still in negotiations. A large portion was converted to Civil Service and requires a lot of work. H.R. is waiting to get answers from other people.

Satellite Campus Reports

Alton: Jackie Candela reported the SDM saw 118 kids for Give Kids A Smile day on October 14th, and that the Search Committee for the Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs position has concluded its search and passed along their findings to the dean.

E. St. Louis: William Dusenbery reported

Standing Committees

UPBC: Keith Becherer reported

“the agenda for this week for Vice-Chancellor Emmanuel presenting on FY 13 accomplishments within Student Affairs and begin to look at Funding Priorities for FY14. VC Hundley spoke the week before and VC Neher presented on 10/25. VC Hundley talked about their struggles raising money and their current projections were behind anticipated levels. He was complimentary of SIUE and for the opportunity here and wished incoming VC Stack the best of luck. VC Neher spoke on multiple challenges to his budget including costs to operate the new Science Building, since the State helped fund the construction, but does not fund the operations. Additionally, the continued increase in meeting requirements of unfunded mandates such as Clery Act, new credit card security issues, etc. have put a strain on his budget. He is also anticipating receiving money from the state move forward with additional window replacement projects across campus and taking over the electrical operating systems are underway. Plans are also being discussed to upgrade the chillers system at the Heating and Cooling plant on campus.

Prior meetings at the beginning of the semester have dealt mainly with Bill Winter, Budget Director, explaining how our budget works at the University including but not limited to information on State Appropriations, Fee-funded entities and restrictions they encounter, especially those with a debt service like University Housing and the Student Fitness Center. There are also a great amount of unknowns at this point such as the State Appropriation, impact on if or when a Pension Reform is passed, etc. Phil Brown has also presented on Performance Based funding (Graduation and Retention Rates being tied into State Appropriation) but I was unable to attend that meeting due to a prior commitment out of town.

No action items have been voted on at this point in the semester. The Spring Semester will be deal with more action items as the financial outlook becomes clearer. “

UCB: Michelle reported that the University Center will be open 24 hours a day during finals week starting Friday prior to exams until Tuesday or Wednesday.

Public Relations Committee: Michelle will have Vicki email the Wordmark out to everyone so it can be used in the newsletter, etc., and that we probably should put it on the website.
**Policy Review Committee:** No report

**Scholarship Committee:** Michelle reported that applications are being accepted now until November 15 for the Faculty for Collective Bargaining scholarship, for spring semester.

**Fundraising Committee:** Michelle asked whether a date had been selected for the Employee Banquet. Donna reported that a final date had NOT been selected, but that the committee was looking at two dates in early April and would hopefully have a date finalized prior to the December meeting.

**Goals Committee:** No report.

**Presidents Report:** Michelle reported that she attended the AQIP Conference with the Chancellor and some of the Provost’s staff. AQIP is a quality process used for SIUE accreditation, but we are switching to something new. The conference is the last one before changing to the new one and the purpose was to come up with an action project. Plans are to coordinate more between UPBC (University Planning and Budget Council) & UQC (University Quality Council) on academic issues, not combining them but have a couple of combined meetings each year. SIUE is the largest school left in AQIP. The average size school had 4,000 students. Michelle noted it was worthwhile to attend.

Michelle met with the Chancellor yesterday:

She is open to the sick leave bank and thinks it is good. They discussed the Post Office closure and that the Staff Senate had a special meeting about it. They talked about maintaining lines of communications so that employees are not blindsided by sudden changes. The Chancellor wants to maintain open communication. The Employee Appreciation annual event will happen again in the spring. Michelle sent Kim an email and offered assistance with that.

**E News** - People are not getting feedback from announcements like they used to. The new digest is difficult to read; maybe Marketing and Communications will look at different format for it.

Tuesday was an initial budget meeting with IBHE. It was a brief meeting and they will come back to do a full budget meeting. SIUE should anticipate a 10% Budget cut for next year and SIUE will know more after the IBHE full budget meeting. This is why it is important to go to the open forum for the Presidential Search next week after the SIU Board of Trustees meeting and express concerns and suggestions for what you want in a President. The meeting will be at SIUE campus.

Michelle and Keith noted that we need to prepare ourselves for harder times ahead.

Provost search is happening now and candidates will be here during the spring semester.

On the faculty and student side, the basements around campus have no WiFi or cell phone connection. This would seem to be a safety issue as well as social. Michelle met with Jennifer Vandever last week, and learned it will come to funding whether it is solved or not. Student government will be talking about a resolution to correct the lack of WiFi and cell phone service.
in these areas. IT is aware because they get a lot of calls about it. ITS department will do an efficiency study on this in the spring. Michelle and Keith have talked about weekend classes that are on Sunday and some have experienced not being able to log into blackboard. This causes a problem because ITS personnel are not here on Sunday. The Chancellor is on board with solving this issue for the students.

Rachel Stack is the new VC for University Advancement and will be here making visits off and on before she starts her job.

Michelle reminded everyone that the Ethics training deadline is here.

Presidential Search Committee: John Caupert is on the committee as the Staff Senate representative. Michelle hoped that everyone had a chance to do the survey from the committee about qualities in a new president

Public Comments: none

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. (Dusenbery).

December 5, 2013 Approved as amended by the Staff Senate
Vicki Kruse/University Governance