

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Johnson Center, 311D*

Present: Sharon Bloomquist, Susan Brionez, Joey Carls, Tya El, Laura Harrison, Gail Hodges, Rick Holt, David Jackson, Ginnie Mahoney, Karen Manley, James Martin, Darlene Montgomery, Christina Nienaber Shotwell, Della Patrick, Cathy Ryan, Toshiko Uchiyama, Karen Underwood, Renee Younes

Notified Absent:

Absent: Gordon McGinnes

Guest Speakers: Senior VP Maurice Scherrens and Associate VP Linda Harber

Topic: University Budget and Question & Answer Period

1. **Call to Order** by Joey Carls at 12:00 pm

2. **Announcements**

3. **Old Business**

- a. Approval of October meeting minutes tabled until next month
- b. Vice Chair Election
 - i. Joey requested motion by unanimous consent to elect James Martin as Staff Senate Vice Chair, with the term ending June 2012
 - ii. Motioned, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent
- c. Elections Update
 - i. Unless objections, the two write-in candidates will join the Senate with the other candidates this January.
 1. No objections from those present.
 - ii. Result: Seven new Senators from this election
- d. Staff Senate Retreat—Sharon
 - i. Training Options
 1. Myers-Briggs Type Indicator—too expensive
 2. Three steps to better communication
 - a. Crucial Conversations , Difficult Situations and Crucial Confrontations
 - b. Sharon talked with Lori Roth, Learning and Professional Development Director, Human Resources/Payroll, who will present

- c. Sharon requested approval for this training, which was approved.
 - d. Post approval, Susan asked if a variety of teachers could present rather than just one. Per Sharon, that's not feasible.
 - 3. Kathrin will take on task of coordinating carpool. This will be accomplished at each committee meeting.
 - 4. Kathrin will take on the task of online potluck sign ups, which will be done on-line
- e. Reception for departing leadership—tabled until next month
- f. Employee of the Month gift—tabled, until researched and then to come back to a future meeting

4. New Business

- a. Executive Committee—Joey Carls
 - i. There will be a change in the way Staff Senate general meetings are conducted. Items that don't need action by the full senate will not come to meeting; hence, there will no longer be monthly committee reports. Time will be focused on items that need attention; time will not be given to items that are not ready for discussions.
 - ii. Meetings will start with business and end with the guest speaker
 - iii. Announcements items are those that need no response
 - iv. Roundtable will allow the opportunity for Senators to share concerns heard on campus, which will then be assigned to a committee
- b. Treasurer Report—Laura Harrison
 - i. Current budget summary distributed
- c. Communication and Outreach—Laura Harrison
 - i. Toys for Tots, Food Drive, Holiday Party
 - 1. Food Drive/Toys for Tots will be a competition among university departments that opt in.
 - 2. Winning department, that which contributes most food per participating person, will win lunch. Laura has asked Ram Nabar, Dining Services, to sponsor lunch. His unofficial response has been positive, but official approved has not been granted.
 - 3. If Dining does not approve sponsorship, Laura would like approval from Senate for Senate sponsorship of lunch for the winning department. The most this would be is \$500. Current budget forecasts a surplus of \$1500. Approved, but not unanimously.
 - 4. Need Senate approval for Food for Others as recipient of donations from Fairfax campus. Unanimously approved
 - 5. Prince William will donate to SERVE, the Manassas campus of Northern Virginia Family Service
 - 6. Arlington will donate to the same organization as Fairfax

- d. University Issues—Karen Manley
 - i. No issues to share this month
- e. Awards & Events—Sharon Bloomquist
 - i. Please see above discussion of the Staff Retreat

5. Roundtable

- a. Karen Manley resigning from Staff Senate for personal reasons at end of month. She offered to help in whatever way she can in the future.
- b. Another dining committee representative is needed. Susan is already on the committee. Committee meets one Friday of each month. Gail agreed to join committee. No objections from Senate.
- c. Susan offered to take issues regarding dining back to committee.
- d. It was suggest that Josh Cantor, Parking and Transportation, come in soon to discuss recent changes in parking.
- e. Joey asked the each advisory committee members report back in writing after each meeting.
- f. Given Scherrens and Harbers discussion on the proposed Virginia Sickness and Disability Program (VSDP) changes and their request that the Senate share their perspective, how this will be handled. It was agreed that feedback would be gathered in the Staff Senate meetings and sent to Harber to report to Richmond. Joey asserted that we should take this slow and gather feedback thoughtfully.
- g. Ginnie asked for clarification of snow policy. Staff should know when to expect announcement of the university closing and when passageway on campus is safe. Joey will take upon himself to reiterate our position on this next time he meets with Dr. Scherrens.

6. Meeting Adjourned by Joey Carls at 12:30 pm.

*Video-conferenced to Arlington Campus, Founders Hall, B119, and Prince William campus. Occoquan Building , Room 221. Call in number 703.249.6087

Attachments

October 2011 Minutes
Senator Write-in Candidates

Minutes by Kathrin Breitt Brown