The Staff Senate met Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in CSC Caddo Meeting Room. Members in attendance were Chris Gore, Barbara Merkle, Lori Case, Dottie Westbrook, Marcus Hill, Francis Miller, Ernest Cooper, Sharon Johnson, Doug Collins, Mike Deming, Treva Clifton, Chris Stovall, Pam Morgan, and Joe Mrgualski.

Approval of minutes
Pam Morgan moved to approve the minutes from January 21, 2009. Motion was seconded by Marcus Hill.

Committee Reports

Administrative Council – (Chris Gore) defer to the Board of Regents agenda

Academic Council – (Barbara Merkle) not met

Faculty Senate – (Pam Morgan) Reported that a committee was formed to look into the course evaluation system. The faculty do not like the online evaluations. They are not a fair representation of the professor. The senate was discussed ways to increase the response from students for the evaluations. Maybe the students could be made aware of the evaluations in orientation, advisement, on WebCT. Concerned about how this will affect the students.

Student Affairs Council – (Sharon Johnson) Informed that the Psychology Clinic is open to students and staff. Stated that there was one more men’s and women’s basketball game and softball is starting. The council discussed smoking on campus. Chief Hagy said there was more than enough parking on campus. Criminal activity is up on campus due to the recession. Cindy Loveless stated postage is increasing to 44 cents. Janus Buss stated that there are more “green” bags left. The Wellness Center should be completed by mid-May. CPR classes will be offered at no charge. Sherry Kincade informed the council that the “one” cards have changed and the current cards need to be updated to the new card.

Enrollment Management Council – (Treva Clifton) Dr. Pam Midgett discussed what services could be offered for veterans. Barbara Merkle talked about the faculty getting grades in earlier for suspension students. Dr. Robert Clark informed the council that the 5th year interim report was moved to May.

Board of Regents (Chris Gore) – Recommendation was made to purchase Christ Academy. A house on Hamilton was given to the university. An installment option for tuition was approved to one-third due at intervals in the semester. Also, a summer installment contract will be available for tuition. Less than 5% increase for tuition and fees for fall was approved. Emeritus status for faculty was approved.

Staff Senate Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Discussed that Joey Greenwood would be speaking to the senate at a later date for a proposition to move to a non-smoking campus.

Long Range Review and Planning Committee – no report
Communications Committee – Stated that the Staff Senate web page would be set up by our March meeting.

Membership Committee – no report

Bylaws Committee – Approved changes will be done and the senate will vote on the bylaws in the March meeting.

Staff Senate Scholarship Committee – Requirements similar to Tarleton State University scholarship fund will be drafted. Qualifications for the scholarship were asked, such as would sons/daughters be eligible. Book scholarship? Possible fundraising for the scholarship would be a book sale for a book scholarship or possible raffle to raise money.

Old Business
Ad Hoc Committee – Emeritus Status – Barbara Merkle stated that more information is needed. She has contacted other schools for comparable information.

Ad Hoc Committee – 4 day work week – The senate questioned issues surrounding a move to a 4 day work week. The senate wanted to know how this would help save the university money. Would flexibility in office hours work better? If prospective students want to come in, Admissions has stated that they will come in to meet the students if the university is closed however faculty will not be available on Fridays for the students to meet with them. Doug Collins reported that if a faculty member comes in on Friday, it would not save money for utilities because we have to turn on the air conditioning for multiple offices. What are the implications for those staff who work part time?

New Business
Preparation for upcoming elections – Tabled to discuss in the March meeting.
MSU Educational Assistance Program for Employee Dependents – Currently, students have to be unconditionally admitted to the university to be eligible for the program. The senate discussed a possible policy change. The senate asked about the “bridge” program with Vernon. Those students take 3 hours with MSU and the rest with Vernon. They are considered “denied” admissions so with the current policy, they would be ineligible.

Round Robin
Marcus Hill reminded the senate about updating their campus ID cards.
Doug Collins said the coliseum renovation is moving along in stages.
Mike Deming discussed computer access in his building. Informed by supervisor that the staff can go to the library or student center on lunch or breaks to check email. Chris Gore will follow up with Human Resources regarding work time to check emails, etc.

Linda Knox informed that the summer and fall schedules should be available at the end of March or first of April. May commencement will be held at MPEC.
Chris Stovall discussed that the Coordinating Board is going to formula funding. They will look at completed hours. This will have a negative impact to the university. There is a greater need to advise and assist at risk students because of this funding.

Joe Mrugalski stated the warehouse lost 2 employees. The new warehouse storekeeper is Bobby Rhine. An administrative assistant was hired to assist the director of purchasing.

Lori Case discusses the delivery of new equipment to the new Wellness Center. The current spin bikes will be sold in the auction. The senate felt there needed to be something done to address the surplus equipment.

Barbara Merkle stated that Mustangs Rally on February 14th was very successful. 80 – 90% were the first child to go to college. The beauty of the campus made a big impact on the prospective students and family.

Chris Gore reminded the senate of the upcoming performance of Doubt by the theatre department. This will be an encore performance before the play will advance to regionals.

Our next meeting will be March 18th at 10:00 a.m. The executive committee will meet March 11th at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Westbrook
Secretary/Treasurer