The Staff Senate met Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in CSC Cheyenne Meeting Room. Members in attendance were Chris Gore, Lori Case, Dottie Westbrook, Marcus Hill, Ernest Cooper, Mike Deming, Chris Stovall, Joe Mrugalski, Treva Clifton, and Linda Knox. Nick Gipson was also attended the meeting. Chris Gore presided over the meeting.

Approval of minutes
Treva Clifton moved to approve the minutes from February 18, 2009 with changes (An informal survey will be conducted by the senators to their EEO constituents regarding the 4 day work week.). Motion was seconded by Linda Knox.

Committee Reports
- Administrative Counsel – (Chris Gore) no report
- Academic Counsel – (Chris Gore) Discussed new procedures for independent studies, course and catalog changes. Academic awards banquet is April 4th. April 28th there will be a dedication of a new Steinway with a performance.
- Faculty Senate – (Pam Morgan) no report
- Student Affairs Council – (Sharon Johnson) Discussed HB1893 regarding guns on campus. Dr. Farrell discussed budgets and scholarships for the university. He was optimistic regarding the university’s financial situation.
- Enrollment Management Counsel – (Treva Clifton) Joey Greenwood and Dr. Keith Williamson discussed a tobacco free campus. Barbara Merkle discussed that admissions are in compliance with the state regulations but they need to update some of the wording on printed documents.
- Board of Regents – (Chris Gore) no report

Staff Senate Committee Reports
- Executive Committee – agenda
- Long Range Review and Planning Committee – no report
- Communications Committee – The website is up but some pages are not linked to the site yet. That can be turned on at any time though. There are email links to the representatives. Minutes for the previous meetings are in the archives. The nomination and voting page is on this page but will not be live until nominations and elections take place. This will be conducted through the staff senate website. Dianne Weakley will give the list of eligible candidates to the webmaster. Another senate seat was added in the skilled worker EEO job code. There is a link for senate news and the senate would like to post a group picture on the website.
- Membership Committee – Nominations will be live early next week. Elections will be in early April. Those current senators on a one year term are eligible for nomination again.
- Bylaws Committee – Proposed bylaws were presented to the senate. Sharon Johnson moved to accept the bylaws as written and Marcus Hill seconded. All were in favor.
Staff Senate Scholarship Committee – no report. The committee will present a proposed scholarship application and requirements at the next meeting.

Old Business
Ad Hoc Committee – Emeritus Status – (Chris Gore) Discussed that most universities that the committee researched did not have anything specific for staff emeritus status. Many are interested to see what our staff senate does about this. Chris Gore found policy and procedures for a staff emeritus at Eastern Kentucky University that we may use to format our own emeritus status. If the senate approves this, it will go to the Board of Regents hopefully in May.

Ad Hoc Committee – 4-day work week – (Treva Clifton) Budgets are being trimmed for savings. The Board of Regents allows the president discretion to any money saving without the approval of the board. The president has formed an Ad Hoc Committee to look into any ways the university can save money; one of which is the 4-day work week. Chris Gore will serve on this committee. The senate will send him results of an unofficial poll regarding the 4-day work week. Ernest Cooper commented that the custodians have to work 5 days except those who are part-time job. The supervisors have been lenient on that issue. Chris Gore brought up the argument for those who have children in day care. A possible 4 ½ day would accommodate those employees. The economy is driving this issue. Summer school starts at 8:00 (Monday through Thursday) and faculty have Fridays off. The ultimate decision will be on the money the university will save. Mike Deming brought up the idea that grounds staff do not require heating and cooling. Other issues were brought up such as: how much can we accomplish in a 4 day week vs. a 5 day week. If the staff works ½ day on Friday, that building would have to be cooled anyways. How much have we saved in the past? The president was informed that some faculty request cooling of their offices on Friday. He stressed to Chris Gore that if the university is closed, it is closed as normal.

Preparation for upcoming elections – Early next week, nominations will be live. A postmaster will be sent out to let the staff know that the website is live and nominations are open.

MSU Educational Assistance Program for Employee Dependents – (Linda Knox) Currently, to be eligible for this program, the dependent has to be unconditionally admitted to the university. Staff Senate would like to change the requirement to be dependents admitted to the university. Dependents who are continuing students must meet university academic standards. The requested change will be taken to administrative council. The current requirements are more restrictive to our dependents than for the rest of the student body. Marcus Hill motioned to approve the change and Chris Stovall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

New Business
Senate Bill 1164 – This bill proposes that it will no longer be illegal to carry concealed handguns on the college campus. It has been requested that staff senate provide a statement on the bill. The Texas Council of Faculty Senate and the MSU
Faculty Senate opposed the bill. Chris Gore proposed a written statement opposing the bill to the senate. Marcus Hill moved to accept the statement as it was written. Mike Deming seconded. All were in favor. The statement will be posted on the staff senate website. Chris Gore will inform Dr. Rogers and Dr. Farrell regarding the senate’s decision.

Identity theft prevention program – Chris Stovall reported that the administration has drafted an identity theft prevention program using Texas A&M system as a guide. The “Red Flags” rule was set up by the Federal Trade commission in June 08. Starting in the next fiscal year, financial institutions (including higher education institutions) must monitor accounts and report any “red flags” to remain in compliance with mandates. The university must comply with this mandate by May 1st.

Round Robin

Linda Knox reported that commencement will be held at Kay Yeager Coliseum in May. The summer schedule has been sent to the printer and the fall schedule will be sent on Monday. They should be available to the community around the first of April.

Ernest Cooper said that in a recent fundraiser, the Schreiner’s raised $2600 at the annual “dead cow” cook-off. His team received 8th.

Treva Clifton stated that next Wednesday, Alan Page (NFL Hall of Fame and Minnesota Supreme Court judge) will be speaking for the Artist’s Lecture Series. May 1st is the student leadership banquet.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Westbrook
Secretary/Treasurer