Minutes of Meeting
Staff Senate
December 14, 2011

The Staff Senate met Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 189 in the Dillard College of Business Administration Building. Members in attendance were Marilyn Brown, Mike Deming, Lori Case, Jeana Brunson, Lucy Davis, Matthew Park, Frances Miller, Ernest Cooper, Juan Ibarra, Dirk Welch, Jolene Welch, Patricia Lowry and Peggy Brennan. Jolene Welch, Chair, presided.

Also present was guest speaker, Ms. Teresa Solomon, Loan Officer, Midwestern State University Credit Union.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Jolene Welch.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting were presented. Dirk Welch motioned to approve the minutes, Ernest Cooper seconded; the minutes were approved (closed).

1. Guest Speaker, Teresa Solomon

Ms. Teresa Solomon distributed a handout to the Staff Senate members (see attachment 1) regarding basic information on the Midwestern State University Credit Union. She gave a brief history of how the credit union was established in 1955. The credit union is not part of the university, but they were named Midwestern State University Credit Union due to the fact that the university is their base for membership. Ms. Solomon explained the difference between banks and credit unions and reviewed the services, included in the distributed information. The credit union is state chartered and therefore they fall under federal and state regulations. The credit union is governed by a board of directors. The main difference between a bank and a credit union is the service, and unlike banks the credit unions share information and work together. The credit union provides one-on-one service. For example, a member interested in a loan will be advised on what loan fits his/her need the best. She explained that the credit committee goes over each loan request individually and takes your specific situation and credit into consideration. The credit union is open to all faculty, staff and their family members and employees of the ministry affiliates on campus. Also, the credit union is available for students attending the university. Ms. Solomon encouraged anyone to call their office if they have any questions or need any information at (940) 397-4622.

The following questions were asked by a Staff Senate member/guest and were answered by Ms. Solomon:

- **Question:** What is a Try-Me Personal Loan? **Answer:** a person who may have derogatory credit history and under normal circumstances would not qualify for a loan may be considered for a loan starting at $500. If the loan is paid in full in the specified time the amount the person may borrow possibly would increase.

- **Question:** Can the payments for the loan be automatically deducted from your paycheck? **Answer:** Yes.
• **Question:** Does the credit union offer any type of credit cards? **Answer:** Yes, the credit union offers a MasterCard at a 13% interest rate that does not change. There is also a 20-day grace period and no interest is charged. The limit on the card is up to $5,000. If you have a shared draft account there is also an ATM card available. There is ATM machines available in the Clark Student Center, 7-Eleven stores in the area and the Wichita Fall’s Teacher’s Credit Union without any charge.

• **Question:** How competitive are the rates the credit union offers compared to other lenders? **Answer:** Usually, a little better. The credit union is willing to try and work with you to compete with other lenders so they encourage you to check with them before taking a loan from another lender.

• **Question:** How about mortgage rates? **Answer:** Mortgage rates are reviewed each month and compared to all the other credit unions and some of the area banks and are adjusted accordingly. Also, 15 year mortgages are available and if the value of the home is 50% more than what you need to borrow they will do the 15 year loan at the 10 year rate. If interest rates go down they will refinance the loan for a fee and lower the rate of the loan.

Ms. Solomon explained they also do shared loans where you can borrow against the amount you have in your savings at a low interest rate and continue to draw the dividends on your money while you pay off the amount you borrowed. She emphasized that when you pay interest on a loan from the credit union it goes back into the credit union and is paid out in dividends back to the members.

Jolene Welch thanked Ms. Solomon for addressing the Staff Senate.

2. **Correspondence:**

The following suggestions/requests/inquiries were received or remain open by Staff Senate:

a) **Recommendation: Wellness Center Membership for Non-Spouse Family Member:** Matthew Park reported that he had contacted Dr. Joey Greenwood, Dean of University Wellness regarding the recommendation. Dr. Greenwood has considered the recommendation and has also reviewed the usage patterns for the facility. He will make a recommendation to Dr. Keith Lamb, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, that faculty and staff be allowed to purchase one additional membership for a family member who meets the eligibility criteria at a cost of $270 per year. This is the same fee that is charged for an Alumni Association member. A decision is expected possibly after the first of the year (open).

b) **Recommendation: Thank You/Good Job Website:** Patricia Lowry in the absence of Devah Scholl reported that they are continuing to work on the website (open).

c) **Suggestion: Veteran’s Day Appreciation (Web Suggestion Box):** Jolene Welch addressed the Staff Senate regarding the suggestion anonymously entered into the web suggestion box that staff who are Veterans be given an extra day off to show support. Ms. Welch contacted Ms. Weakley, Director of Human Resources and she confirmed that the Veteran’s Day holiday is
utilized, but it is included in the days off we receive during the December holiday and not on the actual Veteran’s Day *(closed)*.

3. **Staff Senate Committee Reports:**

**Staff Senate Executive Committee:** Met on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, to set agenda for Staff Senate meeting on December 14, 2011.

**Communications Committee:** No Report.

**Membership Committee:** Matthew Park reported that Doug Allison has officially resigned his position in the Staff Senate. After reviewing the By-Laws and the Constitution, it was determined that the seat will remain unfilled until the next election, as there is no alternate from the most recent election available from the respective classification to fill the vacancy. Matt Park reminded the members the next election is in April.

**By-Laws Committee:** Dirk Welch, upon review of the Staff Senate Constitution for attendance requirements, requested the Staff Senate explore the possibility of changing the wording in Article IV, B. Expulsion. A motion was made by Marilyn Brown to propose the wording be changed as follows:

**Article IV**

**B. Expulsion**

A member who is absent from three consecutive regular senate meetings shall relinquish his or her senate seat. A member who has three unexcused absences in a Staff Senate year shall be subject to review and possible removal from his/her position by the Staff Senate. An appeal for reinstatement may be filed with the Executive Committee by presenting documentation of good cause. In the event the Executive Committee upholds the expulsion, the next alternate in the respective EEO classification will be notified to serve.

Lucy Davis seconded the motion, and the proposal was approved by unanimous voice vote. The proposal will be forwarded to the President for review/approval.

**Scholarship Committee:** Peggy Brennan reported that the President had approved funds in the amount of $1,000.00 per academic year ($500 fall and $500 spring) for scholarships for benefit eligible staff. A MSU Postmaster has been sent out requesting applications from eligible staff members for the spring 2012 semester with a deadline of January 15. Two scholarships at $250.00 each will be awarded for the spring 2012 semester. Two applications have been received as of this date. Ms. Brennan reported there is $453.17 in the Staff Senate Scholarship account, which when added to the $500 received from the President for the spring 2012 scholarships totals $953.17. After further discussion it was decided that if enough eligible applications were received that additional scholarships would be awarded for the spring 2012 semester to take the funds in the account down to a zero balance. If only enough applications are received to award two scholarships for spring 2012 then less funds would be requested/ transferred from the President to cover the scholarships for the next academic year.

**Long Range Review and Planning Committee:** Ernest Cooper reported the location of the Brownbag Luncheon scheduled for Friday, December 16 has been changed to Dillard, Room 189. He also reminded everyone to bring a book(s) to benefit the Faith Refuge.
4. **Councils/Board of Regent Appointed Reports:**

**Board of Regents:** Jolene Welch reported the Board of Regents met in November and the following items were approved that would be of interest to Staff Senate:

- 2013-2014 Academic Calendar Year (includes 4-day summer work week)

- Authorized the utilization of $150,000 from Technology Fee reserves to fund the implementation of a portal technology system at MSU, to include the necessary personnel to manage such an enterprise.

If anyone is interested in any further items approved by the Board of Regents, please contact Peggy Brennan at Ext. 6217 or peggy.brennan@mwsu.edu for a copy of the summary.

**Academic Council:** Matthew Park reported that there were several pages of catalog changes approved. He encouraged anyone working with the academic programs to be aware there are changes. A copy of the November 2011 Academic Council minutes is available by contacting Peggy Brennan at Ext. 6217 or peggy.brennan@mwsu.edu.

**Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Council:** Dirk Welch reported the council reviewed/approved revisions of current MSU Policies for Student Organizations. Also, revisions for the on-campus housing contract were reviewed and approved. A copy of the November 2011 Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Council minutes are available by contacting Peggy Brennan at Ext. 6217 or peggy.brennan@mwsu.edu.

**Administrative Council:** No report.

**Faculty Senate:** Juan Ibarra reported that the Faculty Senate met on Thursday, December 1, 2011 and the following was discussed:

- Discussion with regard to evaluations for adjunct faculty as required by SACS. Up to now evaluations have been based on course evaluations, and Dr. White would like for them to be more formal.
- The Senate discussed ways to facilitate postings of class syllabi on the MSU webpage as mandated by law.
- The academic dishonesty policy was discussed.

A copy of the November 2011 Faculty Senate minutes are available by contacting Peggy Brennan at Ext. 6217 or peggy.brennan@mwsu.edu.
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5. **Old Business:**

Jolene Welch reported she talked to Dr. Alisa White, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs regarding the following recommendation made by the Long Range Review and Planning Committee (LRPC) at the Staff Senate meeting on November 9, 2011:

➢ a member from the LRPC be appointed to represent Staff Senate on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Welch reported that Dr. White will be working on putting together the Strategic Planning Committee in spring 2012. She informed the Staff Senate that Dr. White will definitely have appointed staff representatives on the committee *(closed).*

6. **Open Forum:**

Jolene Welch asked if the Parking Ad Hoc Committee had anything to report. Jeana Brunson said that they had nothing to report at this time. She said Chief Dan Williams will keep them informed if something comes up and at this time there was no need for the committee to meet.

Jolene Welch requested the Staff Senate members to consider not meeting for the regular meeting on January 11, 2012 due to staff just returning from the holidays. After further discussion, the Staff Senate agreed the next meeting would be February 8, 2012.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Peggy Brennan  
Staff Senate Secretary/Treasurer
WHO CAN JOIN THE MSU CREDIT UNION?

- Full-time, benefit-eligible employees of Midwestern State University
- Teaching Assistants (TA’s) of the University, part-time faculty and part-time staff under contract and benefit eligible;
- ALL the ROTC Cadre and all full-time civil service employees of the ROTC unit at the University;
- All full-time campus ministers of the recognized Bible chairs and their full-time employees;
- All Midwestern State University graduates and life-time members of the MSU Alumni Association;
- All full-time (benefit-eligible) Administration, Faculty, classified and At-will employees of Vernon College (including all branches);
- Students who are officially accepted and attending Midwestern State University;

and members of the family of such persons.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO JOIN?

- Two forms of identification (picture). Usually that consists of driver’s license and Mustang ID.
- Completing a signature card.
- Purchase at least one share. ($25.00 + a $1.00 non-refundable membership fee)
- The entire process takes approximately 20 minutes.
- Once you join that means you have established a share account or savings account. You may make deposits of any amount at any time.
- Once a member always a member. If you leave the University for another job or you move to another state — you are encouraged to maintain your account with the Midwestern State University Credit Union

WHAT CAN I DO ONCE I JOIN?

Once you join the MSU Credit Union you have access to many services, such as:

- Payroll Deduction (for savings and loan payments)
- Share Drafts or Checking Accounts
- Debit Cards through our Share Drafts or Checking Accounts
- Home Banking – Check balances, transfer from shares to shares or shares to loans
- Many varieties of loans including: Mortgage, Home Improvement, Home Equity, Autos, Recreational Vehicles, Boats, MasterCard, Personal Loans, Paycheck Loans, Share Loans, Share Notes, Try-Me Personal Loans
- Direct Deposits/ACH transactions – for example your spouse deposits funds through their job (other than Midwestern)
- Free Notary Service
- Easy to navigate website – www.mwsucu.com
- eStatements - monthly
WHAT IS A CREDIT UNION?

A credit union is a cooperative financial institution, owned and controlled by the people who use its services. These people are called “members.”

Credit Unions serve people who share something in common, such as where they work, live, occupational background, or go to church. Credit unions are not-for-profit and exist to provide a safe, convenient place for members to save money at higher rates of return, and to receive loans at reasonable rates. Most importantly, credit unions provide greater and friendlier service to the membership, as well as dividends.

HOW CAN ONE JOIN A CREDIT UNION?

Anyone can join a credit union. Credit Unions, like other finance institutions, are closely regulated. They operate in a very prudent manner. Credit Unions are Safe and Sound. The National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (administered by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the federal government), insures deposits of credit union members at credit unions nationwide. Operating similar to the deposit insurance protection offered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), deposits are insured up to $250,000 for each member and $250,000 on retirement savings-type plans.

WHAT MAKES A CREDIT UNION DIFFERENT?

Like other financial institutions, credit unions accept deposits and make loans to their members. However, unlike the other institutions, which are owned by stockholders (who are interested in personal return on their investments in the form of dividends on shares of stock and higher stock prices), credit unions are not-for-profit and are interested primarily in serving the needs of their members. Dividends on shares are paid to the members, not stockholders. The credit union philosophy of ‘People helping People’ continues to guide Texas credit unions, as it has throughout the history of the credit union movement.

FACTS ABOUT MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY CREDIT UNION

- Established April 25, 1955
- Has grown to over six million in assets
- Governed by nine elected board members
- Audited twice yearly by Texas Credit Union Department and an outside CPA firm
## DIFFERENCES between...

### CREDIT UNIONS

- Not-for-profit financial cooperatives
- Credit unions are tax-exempt because they are not-for-profit cooperatives owned by taxpaying depositors
- Credit union loan rates are capped at 18%
- Organized to serve a specified field of membership
- Owned by their members - democratically controlled: one member - one vote
- Focus is on consumer loans and member savings
- Dividends are paid to the members
- **Voluntary** directors and committees. "Voluntary" reflects the diversity of membership
- Known for offering more favorable rates and services
- **Cooperation** between Credit Unions
- Insured to $250,000 NCUA/NCUSIF
- Insurance fund is self insured—has never caused a loss to the taxpayer
- Motivated to maximize service

### BANKS

- For-profit corporations
- Banks pay taxes on profits they distribute to outside stockholders
- Banks lending rates are unregulated
- Open to the public
- Owned and controlled by outside stockholders
- Focus is on commercial loans and accounts
- Dividends are paid to the stockholders
- Paid directors. Board members do not necessarily reflect the diversity of their customer base
- Known for higher fees and less favorable rates
- **Competition** between Banks
- Insured to $250,000 FDIC
- Bank bailout used BIF taxpayer dollars
- Motivated to maximize profits