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Staff Senate, February 11, 2020

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Staff Senate

February 11, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Note: The remarks of the senators and others are summarized and not verbatim. The recording of this meeting is available in the Staff Senate Secretary's office.

PRESENT: Sandra Baldrige-Adrian; Shaun Bannon; Dwayne Beam; Allison Crandell; Michael Cruise; Amanda Darden; Cecilia Dockery; Mark Garrison; Dawn Hitchcock; Margaret Hurt; Sharon McCants; Ebony McCray; Melanie McKeefery; Ashley Nance; Justin Poindexter; Wendy Singleton; Bryce Skipper; Michele Varga; David Yancey; Travis Youngblood; Bobbi Yurkin

SUBSTITUTIONS: Debbie Burch for Carolyn Bender; Elif Gokbel for Jean Bennett; Scott Stiller for John Dooley; Christi Rippy for Lynn Fox; Sharlene Zwing for Margaret Hurt; Geoff Insch for Judy Johns

ABSENT: Sandra Hatcher

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Rein Mungo; Lori Cox; David Frost; Carlos Johnson; Dr. Atiya Stokes-Brown; Debbie Conner; BJ Landrum; Tammy Parker; Leisha Deriso; Russell Tyler; Tracy Keller; Dan Lawless; Dan Ennis; Travis Overton

Prior to approval of the minutes, a moment of silence was held in remembrance of Marcus Holmes who passed away in January.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the December minutes were moved by Mark Garrison, and seconded by Shaun Bannon. **The minutes passed (28 in favor, 0 not in favor, 0 abstain).**

SENATE PRESIDENT REMARKS: Though we are still very early in the admissions cycle, and the numbers we have are preliminary, one of the topics of conversation that has come up is the declining applications and acceptances from out of state students. This will continue to be looked at and as the numbers solidify it will be brought back to the senate for further discussion.

PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

President DeCenzo: not in attendance

Provost Ennis:

- The retention of Freshmen from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020 was up slightly.
- The number of 18 to 19 year-olds is smaller this year, so we are not expecting to grow in the Fall.
- We really are not expecting to grow between now and 2026
- We hope to be seeing an increase in the number of non-traditional students we have on campus.

Chief of Staff Overton:

- Dr. DeCenzo is attending the WiPL conference and did not leave any remarks for Staff Senate
- The President Search is moving forward, they hope to begin screening candidates in the next few weeks in preparation for off-site interviews. The full timeline is available on the Presidential Search webpage.
- The Faculty Senate voted on a resolution requesting the Board of Trustees have an open process for the Presidential Search, meaning on-campus interviews. The Board of Trustees called a special meeting to review the contents of that resolution and then continued the conversation in December BOT meeting. The Board decided to continue with a closed search.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Student Pay Ad Hoc Committee – no report
- Take Your Child to Work Committee – no report
- Policy and Welfare Committee – The committee that John and David sit on is in the final stages of a merit/pay for performance increase proposal for the President’s office. They should have an update by next month.
- Membership Committee – the committee plans to meet soon to discuss the election process.
- Communication Committee – discussed at the end of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- There have been issues at restrooms during sporting events with not having paper towels in restrooms. The theory of not having paper towels is a great suggestion but it has not been practical. Certain genders need more than just an air-dryer if they are trying to clean a garment that has become soiled. An embarrassing situation from a stain is multiplied when a person must start asking strangers if anyone has “paper towels.” An issue that normally can be remedied in private is often made public. Paper towels are also needed to clean a person’s face prior to touching up make-up. Suggestion: Add paper towels in all restrooms on campus or install wet-wipes in all restrooms. **Action:** This request should be made to the Custodial Director, Jeremy Monday.
- Judy Johns and Jean Bennett suggested that senators could make a donation to the Faculty/Staff Benevolence Fund in honor of Marcus Holmes. It was suggested that one person collect the money and make the donation on behalf of the Senate. Lori Cox clarified that donations are normally payroll deducted and are also tax deductible and the Office for Philanthropy should be contacted to see how to make this donation(s). Senators were then directed to contact Jean Bennett individually if they would like to make a contribution in Marcus’ honor.
- Visitors were invited to leave at this time because the Senate was going to be discussing plans for a senate retreat.

- Senate Retreat – we have decided it should run from the start of the work day until 1:00pm.

What do we want to work on?

- Overviews of Roberts Rules of Order – basics and procedures
- How does the institution work and what is our role?
- HR related questions – processes and such
- How do committees work, how should this body work?
- What do the newly elected senators need to know?
- What can this body do?
 - Could we bring in someone from an existing Staff Senate at another university to help guide us?
- Speakers?
 - Ombuds?
 - Staff Senator from another university in SC?
 - Someone from Faculty Senate (at CCU)?
- What is our Mission Statement?
- Can we filter out submissions that we cannot do anything about (such as pay/increase complaints, parking complaints)?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- none

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 am