

East Carolina University

2010-2011 Staff Senate

January 20, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Phil Hulsey called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was performed by Treasurer Lisa Graepel

Attendance:

Present: Derek Abbott, Marlene Anderson, Cindy Askew, Steve Ayers, Justin Boulmay, Lee Brown, Ramona Brown, Jay Clark, Harold Coleman, Marianne Cox, Jackie Daniels, Tim Daughtry, Melissa Eakes, Leigh Fedash, Lisa Graepel, Jenny Gregory, Phil Hulsey, Garrett Killian, Kristen King, Mande Lancaster, James Lewis, Jean Merenda, Jeremy Morris, Teresa Ramaglino, Kelly Rogers, Kim Thompson, Teresa Tripp, Lisa Tyson, Mary Susan Williams.

Absent: Megan Ayers, Doug Boyd, Richard Cherry, Kendra Davis, Hong Li, Derri Stormer, Michael Tucker, Bobby Tuggle

Ex-officio Officers Present: Shawn Condon, Johnnie Eastwood, Robyn Galloway, Nonie Garcia, Jennifer Muir, Karen Summerlin, John Toller, Pattie Woolard, Ashley Worthington, Jamie Godwin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Graepel reported that a copy of the minutes from the December 16, 2010 meeting was distributed via email. Senator Lee Brown called for a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Derek Abbott seconded the motion. There were no negatives votes. The minutes of December 16, 2010 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Interim Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance, Rick Niswander, presented the State of North Carolina budget situation for 2011. He stated that there is a \$3.7 billion dollar shortfall. The shortfall was due, in part, from a drop in tax revenues and a rise in expenses, like unemployment. Overall, there is a 20% shortfall. The shortfall could be spread over 2 years, in a best case scenario. The worst case scenario would be if we

are required to absorb the entire 20% cut in one year. He also stated that we may not know the official cut amount until July.

Mr. Niswander stressed that we should not panic after hearing of the “Headline Cut” that is released by the press. He stated that about half of the Headline Cut would be what we will incur. Non-academic units have been absorbing the bulk of the cuts so far. This will no longer be the case. Academic units will have to incur some of the cuts for this year.

Senator Justin Boulmay asked if there had been any discussion of furloughs or permanent pay cuts. Mr. Niswander said that there was a very low likelihood that pay cuts would be implemented. There has not been any discussions yet of furloughs. Furloughs would require legislative action.

Senator Jay Clark asked if any proposals for implementing the cuts would be made available to the staff.

Mr. Niswander said that we should be able to cover the cuts without effecting personnel at this point. Each unit should be planning on how they would absorb their part of the cut.

Mr. Niswander also stated that a series of events with the Chancellor will be taking place for the next 2-3 months with the units.

Senator Jenny Gregory stated that there was a need to improve moral and asked if anything was being planned for employee incentives. A suggestion was made to expand the Treasured Pirate program. Karen Summerlin asked for suggestions for ways to expand the Treasured Pirate perks.

Senator Johnnie Eastwood asked if the budget would be completed on time this year. Mr. Niswander stated that there was no way of knowing how long it would take for the legislature to approve the budget but that more than likely, the budget would not be completed on time.

Senator Leigh Kadesh asked what the likelihood would be of closing any of the colleges? Mr. Niswander stated that due to political reasons, this would most likely not happen.

Senator Justin Boulmay asked if there would be an increase to the medical insurance premiums. Mr. Niswander stated that there may be an increase but was unsure.

Mr. Hulsey thanked Mr. Niswander for the budget update and invited Mr. Niswander to return when there are future updates.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- A. Chair-Senate Chairman Phil Hulsey stated that he was overwhelmed by the staff response to the charity giving in December for the Greenville Shelter. He

reported that the Greenville Shelter staff were overwhelmed and thankful for the huge donations made by our staff.

B. Chair-Elect – Mary Susan Williams

C. Treasurer – Lisa Graepel reported that the Staff Senate had expenditures to The Trophy Case of \$392 for name tags. The remaining balance after this expenditure is \$3,608.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communications and Marketing – Jenny Gregory reported that the newsletter deadline for information is Feb. 28th. This edition will include a highlight on the upcoming elections, charities and the Gail Jordan scholarship. Ms. Gregory asked for more information on the Gail Jordan scholarship to include in the newsletter

B. Diversity – Marlene Anderson reported that the Diversity committee would meet next week with Jennifer Muir from Human Resources to promote the use of the free diversity websites for posting of job openings. Ms. Anderson also reported that the Staff Senate currently has no representation on the Chancellor's Diversity Council.....(need more info from Marlene....)

C. Human Resources - ???? reported that the HR committee did not meet in January. The committee is working on ways to respond to staff emails and Kendra Harris asked that we send her any benefit questions.

D. Rewards and Recognition – Harold Coleman reported that the committee is working on Employee Appreciation week that will take place in April. Mr. Coleman met with Bill McCartney of Aramark and received a quote of \$7,000 for lunch for approximately 1,000 employees. The suggestion was made that to reduce costs we could use the dining hall on east campus. We would have to have the luncheon catered on west campus, possibly in the old Laupus library. (Need details from Harold.....) Mr. Coleman reported that they are continuing to look for better door prizes for this year and said they may have something in the works with the Carolina Panthers and Hurricanes. The suggestion was made to possibly get Coke involved as a sponsor for Employee Appreciation week.

E. Bylaws – Derek Abbott reported that they are currently working on the Mission statement that would be voted on in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Lee Brown reported that he is working to include the Gail Jordan scholarship in the Faculty/Staff Combined campaign and that this should be completed by mid-February. Mr. Brown stated that they are working on the selection

process and that more information would be needed to provide to any potential donors. Lee asked for volunteers with this process.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Bylaws changes – (get latest version of mission statement from Derek Abbott) The motion was made to approve the revised mission statement of the bylaws by Derek Abbott. The motion was seconded by Mandee Lancaster. The senate voted to approve with 15 voting yes, no opposed and no abstentions.
- B.** Kristen King reported that the Food Drive would begin Feb 18th and last through March 16th. She asked that senators let her know how many boxes were needed for their collection sites. Ms. King will be sending out a list of needs to be posted at the collection sites and will provide signs as well.
- C.** The discussion concerning the University Closing and Adverse Weather policy were tabled until the next meeting due to time restraints.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.** Phil Hulsey requested that senators attend the Special Campus Master Planning meeting on January 25th from 3-5pm in room 244 of Mendenhall Student Center. There will be discussion time and light refreshments served. John Toller announced that if release time to attend this meeting was an issue, to contact him for a general statement to be given to the supervisors.

ADJOURNMENT

- A.** Chair Phil Hulsey announced that the next meeting will be held on February 17th at 3:30 pm in the ECHI Conference Rooms B-D.
- B.** Meeting adjourned.