

**THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**

**STAFF SENATE**

**(NORMAN CAMPUS)**

**Wednesday, December 21, 2016**

Chair Matthew Rom called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. in the Scholars Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

*Officers present* – Matthew Rom, Chair; John Bishop, Chair-Elect; Debbie Copp, Immediate Past Chair

*Officers absent* – Emilie Bozek, Recording Secretary

*Staff present* – Melissa Lane, Administrative Coordinator

*Representatives present* – Hourly Employees Council: Kristen Holmes, Ross Mehl, Cecilia Holmes, Stephanie Gerhard, Julie Hamburger, Hope Abraham, Suzie Brewer; Informational Staff Association: Carl Sinclair, Elaine Bradshaw, Corey Helms, Chris Cook; Organizational Staff Council: Marissa Pierson, Jackie Downing, Julia Rouse; Administrative Staff Council: David Goodspeed

*Representatives absent* — Hourly Employees Council: Dalton Brasington, Crystal Ary, Nick McCracken, David Kizer; Informational Staff Association: Sarah Connelly; Organizational Staff Council: Kristi Wright, Daveena Stratton, Betty Love; Administrative Staff Council: Breion Rollins

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF November 16, 2016

On motion by Jackie Downing the minutes of November 16, 2016 Staff Senate meeting were accepted.

**CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Matthew met with Wayne Riggs, Chair of the Faculty Senate by telephone to discuss ramifications for the University after an injunction on the implementation of the new FLSA rules. Chairman Riggs wanted to know if the Staff Senate would be discussing FLSA rules during their December meeting and Matthew indicated the Senate would not address the issue until after the legal challenges to the rule are addressed.

Matthew did not meet with Vice President Hathaway nor attend any committee or member group meetings due to scheduling conflicts.

**REPORTS FROM MEMBER GROUPS**

**Administrative Staff Council:** President David Goodspeed reported that they did not meet in November.

**Hourly Employees Council:** President Kristen Holmes reported that they met on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Davenport's in Couch. They did their annual raffle, and the winner of the parking pass was Tony Wong in Food Services. They were able to raise \$2,412.00 for the Backpack for Kids program.

**Informational Staff Association:** President Carl Sinclair reported that they had a lunch and a meeting this month: there was no quorum at their meeting.

**Organizational Staff Council:** President-Elect Marissa Pierson reported that they met on December 8 for their potluck meeting. Doug Myers, Director of Parking and Transportation Operations was the guest speaker. Under old business, they discussed Operation Comfort and Joy nominations and donation logistics. Under new business, they

voted to update their definition of membership under the Staff Senate Constitution and added a new OSC representative to replace someone that could no longer serve.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

**Awards Committee:** By email, Chair Liz Cooley reported that they did not meet.

**Communications Committee:** By email, Chair Patricia Koonce reported that they met by email to put together the Staff Senate Member Group Newsletter.

**Staff Initiatives Committee:** By email, Chair Daveena Stratton reported that they met at the Sam Noble Museum and had a wonderful exchange of holiday treats. During the meeting, they continued discussion on the Cancer Insurance policy through Aflac. They were made aware that the Benefits Committee is looking into different Short-Term Disability policies including Aflac, but no details are known if that would also include some form of cancer insurance. The Human Resource representative said they would correspond with the Benefits Committee about their work on this effort. The committee will continue to get a cost summary for the University, to see if this can be an included benefit. If so then they can present an initiative to Staff Senate in the spring semester.

They also continued their discussion on a paid maternity leave initiative and looked at a list of public institutions that offer paid leave and what their policies look like and if this is something that can be mirrored. There are currently zero Big 12 schools that offer paid leave. They will now look at how many people utilize FMLA leave for maternity and whether the departments at OU have incurred additional costs in hiring temporary employees. They will continue to work with open records to get the figures for the past ten years at OU in regards to FMLA maternity usage and costs, with hopes of developing an initiative to present to Staff Senate in the spring semester.

**Staff Week Committee:** By email Co-Chair, Cathy Brister reported that they met via email. Prize Solicitation is gearing up, and the Armory has been reserved for the Craft Fair/Ice Cream Social and the Picnic (if needed). The Health Fair will be in CCE Corridor A and will be scaled down from previous years. We will still have the hamburgers for sale. The logo choices are being sent out to Staff Senate for help in choosing the logo, and they appreciate Staff Senates help and support.

#### REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND BOARDS

**Employee Benefits Committee:** Debbie Copp reported that they did not meet in November or December. She inquired to see how many people had received their new health insurance cards and encouraged everyone to contact Human Resources if they have any problems with the new insurance carrier. She also announced that Breion Rollins would be leaving the University and Benefits has not named his replacement.

#### OTHER REPORTS

*The following reports were linked to the December agenda:*

Staff Senate Foundation account report

Minutes of Employment Benefits Committee meeting for August 2016

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Staff Senate Volunteer Opportunities:** Discussion was tabled until next month.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Staff Week Logo:** The Staff Week Committee was having trouble selecting a logo for staff week, so they asked Staff Senate to vote. After tallying the votes option four will be the staff week logo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: January 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Lane  
Administrative Coordinator