MINUTES OF THE MEETING
STAFF SENATE
Thursday, August 12, 2010
Dalpiaz Student Center, Room 226
Gaston College | Dallas, NC
Prepared by: Ben Dungan

Members Present: Dr. Karen Less, Harriet Dameron, Ben Dungan, Melanie Hoyle, Dr. Linda Greer, Doug Bradley, Jody Mosteller, Paula Homesley, Leah Mackey, Adele Earls

Members Absent: Sherry Carpenter, Kim Watson, Vickie Hoke, Conrad Martin, Jenell Barnette

Others Present: N/A

I. CALL TO ORDER

Review/Approve Minutes from June Meeting

• The July minutes were approved as submitted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Schedule for 2010-11

• All of the meeting locations have been decided upon, however a proposal was offered to see what we want to do in December. Leah made a motion that we have a voluntary all-dessert luncheon in place of our December meeting. Harriet seconded, motion passed. Ben Dungan will report back to the committee on a location in the future.

• Ben Dungan will also email a list of the meeting dates/locations for the 2010-11 year.

New Staff Senator

• Dr. Less has identified a staff member willing to serve on Staff Senate. She will speak with him/her and report on this at our next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Brainstorm Goals & Objectives for 2010-11

• In preparation of the brainstorming sessions, Dr. Less went over a list of goals/objectives we achieved last year.
Ideas that were presented:

- Implement ‘buddy system’ for new staff members
- Create a system for announcing special events such as births, deaths, engagements, etc.
- Raise awareness about the role of Staff Senate through Inside Gaston, email, surveys, etc.
- Enhance content / website for staff senate
- Foster partnership/collaboration with Faculty Senate
- Do something to recognize vets on Veteran’s Day
- Help prepare College to be tobacco free
- Participate in two college events (Run For the Money, Open House, Gaston Pride Tours, etc.)
- Increase staff participation @ professional development opportunities
- Revamp Staff Development Day
- Develop new staff member orientation process
- Recommend 37 ½ hour work-week for staff (fall/spring) / 36 hour work-week in summer
- Create “Stay Home If Sick” posters
- Change summer hours to decrease length of day
- Optional flex time all year long (supervisor-approved)

The committee will prioritize this list at our next meeting.

General Staff Meeting

- The date for the meeting has been set for Tuesday, October 12. At the next meeting we will decide what we want to include on the agenda.

- Dr. Greer has allocated $200 from her discretionary account for us to use for the ice cream social following the General Staff meeting.

Executive Council Meeting Update

- Dr. Linda Greer gave an update from Executive Council:

  o Staff Senate Budget
    - The budget of $1,500 has been reinstated. As these are state funds, they cannot be used to purchase food or give-aways.
    - As the Ex-Officio member of the Staff Senate, the Vice President will set aside $200 from her discretionary account for FY 2010-11 to purchase food/refreshments for special Staff Senate events.

  o State Budget
    - Overall, the College’s budget from the State was better than expected, with an increase over last year’s budget. However, we must still be frugal in our spending and long-term commitments, as projections for 2011-12 are bleak because of anticipated state shortfalls in funds.
• Per State guidelines, **staff** pay increases using state funds are not permitted for 2010-11. The Council is reviewing several options for faculty and staff.
  
  o Congressionally-Directed Grants
    • The college will be seeking a grant awarded through the US Department of Education’s FIPSE program in support of student retention/development initiatives. A possible use of the funds (if awarded) would be to develop and implement a Gaston College Writing Center for use by curriculum and continuing education students.

**President’s Cabinet Meeting Update**

• No update

**Committee Updates**

• **New Staff Member Welcome**
  o Harriet Dameron indicated that Dairy Queen is going to continue to honor the new staff member free cone offer. Harriet secured signatures from those in attendance to place on the new welcome card.

• **Social**
  o Harriet Dameron said that Jesus Medina would let her know if we is planning to attend the September meeting so he can share his plan on a Campus Social event.

**Announcements**

• Leah Mackey agreed to serve as the Staff Senate representative on the College Social Committee.

• The Faculty/Staff Dining Lounge renovation is going back to the contractors for a quote on only renovating the lounge itself, and not the entire dining area.

• The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Morris Library, room 226.

• The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.