MINUTES OF THE MEETING
STAFF SENATE
Thursday, September 9, 2010
Morris Library, Room 226
Gaston College | Dallas, NC
Prepared by: Ben Dungan

Members Present: Sherry Carpenter, Kim Watson, Conrad Martin, Stephanie Lutz, Dr. Karen Less, Harriet Dameron, Ben Dungan, Melanie Hoyle, Dr. Linda Greer, Jody Mosteller, Paula Homesley, Leah Mackey and Adele Earls

Members Absent: Vickie Hoke, Jenell Barnette and Doug Bradley

Others Present: N/A

I. CALL TO ORDER

Review/Approve Minutes from August Meeting

• The August minutes were approved as edited.

New Staff Senator Introduction

• Dr. Less welcomed Stephanie Lutz to Staff Senate. She has been appointed to fulfill Kim Watson’s remaining term on Staff Senate.

• Dr. Less also mentioned that Jeannie Horton was appointed to fill the open Staff Senate seat.

Special Recognition

• Kim Watson was awarded a plaque recognizing her service as Staff Senate President from 2009-10. She will be leaving at the end of the month for a new job in Washington D.C.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Prioritize Goals & Objectives for 2010-11

• The list of ideas and activities were passed around to each senator. Each senator then identified their top three choices for the coming year. After the exercise, the votes were tallied to see which activities/ideas were most important to the committee. The results of this exercise are below:

1. Develop new staff member orientation
2. Revamp Staff Development Day
3. Foster participation/collaboration with Faculty Senate
3. Recommend 37 ½ hour work-week for staff (fall/spring) / 36 hour work-week in summer
5. Enhance content for Staff Senate website
5. Raise awareness about the role of Staff Senate through Inside Gaston, email, surveys, etc.
7. Do something recognize vets on Veteran’s Day
8. Help prepare College to be tobacco-free
8. Increase staff participation at professional development opportunities
10. Participate in two college events (Run For the Money, Open House, Gaston Pride Tours, etc.)

Faculty Staff Dining Room

- The renovation of the Faculty/Staff Dining Room is ready to move forward. Dr. Less gave some background on the project. The plan is to remove the existing carpet and install tile. They also plan to replace the larger partition, so that it matches the color and look of the smaller partition. Lastly, they plan to install base boards that match the wood color of the two partitions.

- Wray Rankin has tasked Staff Senate with selecting the floor tile color, the wall color, and window blinds color.

- Gary Freeman and the Art Department are willing to paint a mural for the room. They are wanting to know what the theme should be for the mural.

General Staff Meeting

- The General Staff Meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. in DBC 180. In addition to a general Staff Senate update, Dr. Less suggested the following speakers and topics:
  - Todd Baney – Performance Appraisal Update
  - Ernie Charles – Tobacco-Free Update
  - Dewey Dellinger – SACS update

- Harriet will work with Joanne Perkins to purchase the Klondike Bars. Dr. Greer has made $200 available from her discretionary fund to purchase these snacks.

- Adele Earles mentioned that Peggy Oates may be available to speak on the topic of distressed students.

- The General Staff meeting will replace our regularly scheduled October Staff Senate meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Gaston Pride Tours

- Dr. Less passed out a sign-up sheet for those interested in helping out with the Gaston Pride Tours on the Dallas Campus.
SGA Blood Drives

- Dr. Less listed the dates for the upcoming SGA Blood Drives. The dates are: 10/19, 12/9, 2/27 and 4/14.

Executive Council Meeting Update

- Dr. Linda Greer gave the following update from Executive Council.
  - The current employee tuition waiver policy is under review to assure that it is consistently applied to eligible employees and family members.
  - Renovation projects under consideration are Myers Center Auditorium and the Board Room/Parlor.
  - The Executive Council continues to review options for pay increases/bonuses for eligible faculty and staff for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Board of Trustees Report

- Conrad Martin submitted the Board Report from August 23, 2010:
  - Introduction of new employees
  - President’s report
    - Much of this information was shared at GC convocation
    - Over 6400 head count, up 1%
    - Trio grant focused on retention (primarily low income, first generation students)
    - Rep. McHenry visited, was asked about funding for Writing Center
    - Gaston County Chamber sponsoring event at Kimbrell campus
      - What would it take to hire one more person?
      - How can we help encourage entrepreneurship?
    - Learn & Earn no longer used for FTE’s
      - College is keeping students who were already enrolled
    - Moratorium on early college high schools
      - College is collaborating with BCHS on retention
    - Grant for minority mentoring program passed
  - SGA President’s report
    - SG theme: “Did you know?”
    - SGA events for the year are set
  - Finance report
    - Budget corrections are done
      - Approximately 100% budget to spending
      - Exceptions can be carried over
    - Fee schedule for swift water rescue class includes $2 River Fee
  - Campus Affairs
- Restrict enrollment to swift water rescue (and other emergency preparedness) classes at the college’s discretion (parental permission for underage students)

Committee Updates

- **New Staff Member Welcome**  
  - Harriet Dameron announced the names of the new staff members that were hired in the last 30 days. They will receive the free ice cream cone from Dairy Queen.

- **Staff Senate Social Committee**  
  - Harriet Dameron indicated that Faculty Senate is not interested in pursuing the Family Day event.

- **Gaston College Social Committee**  
  - Leah Mackey met with the committee today. They discussed the holiday social event that will be held on 12/10. More details will be coming in future months.

- **Mini-Grant**  
  - Jody Mosteller will take Kim Watson’s place on this committee.

Announcements

- There will be no meeting next month due to the General Staff Meeting on Tuesday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. in DBC, room 119.

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.