Governors State University

Civil Service Senate

Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

11:00 a.m. – Room D1496

Meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Laura Owens. Roll call was done by Lynne Clayton.


Excused: Andrea Dal Polo, Shelina Jenkins, Kathy Miller, Cynthia Woodard

Absent: Raymond Foster, Tiffani Malvin, Crystal Richards, Karen Stuenkel

Guest: Maureen Bendoraitis

Approval of Minutes:

October minutes were read. A motion from Kelly Robinson to accept the minutes with the correction of “Ann Jaso of Health Professions” to “Ann Jaso of Health & Human Services”, and the change from “focus on” to “mention of” Kathy Miller in the upcoming newsletter, was made. Karen Sinwelski seconded. All were in favor.

Committee Reports:


2. Financial Report – Joyce Giroux – Joyce presented a brief income expense statement that included the details from the GSU Picnic and the Cook-Out. To date, we have made $478.95. At our next meeting, Joyce hopes to have the details on the expenses incurred for the Council of Councils, Chili Dog Day and Civil Service Day. She also hopes to have the details of monies earned for the Fall Arts & Crafts Fair, as well as the Bake Sale.

3. EAC Report – Maureen Bendoraitis – Maureen gave a recap of the EAC meeting that was held last month here at GSU. The focus is preserving jobs in the Civil Service ranks, as many university administrations are opting for making new positions into A&P to help avoid the morass of union rules. Not unlike tenure of teachers, many administrations view the Civil Service rules as protecting less than stellar employees. There is also a perception that “Civil Service” positions are of a “lower” quality than A&P positions. Maureen emphatically stated that this is not true. Maureen also suggested that Civil Service Unions need to foster an attitude of give and take with the administration and not let a Civil Service position be
viewed as a “job for life,” but rather support and help with the due process of employees that will weed out unsatisfactory workers.

4. **Educational Assistance Fund Report** – Lynne Clayton – Lynne informed the Senate that four applications had been received for the FB10 Semester. However, one of the applicants scored below average, two in the average range, and only one scored in the Highly Recommended range. She mentioned that the committee had had a healthy debate on whether to give out all four awards because we can, versus giving out only to those applicants that “deserve” the award. The committee finally decided to give out awards to the three top scorers. The applicant who scored below average will not receive any assistance. Laura Owens moved that we give out the three awards, Sheryl Jones-Harper seconded. Motion passed.

5. **Newsletter** – Marlene Lees – Marlene let us know that the next issue will be coming out in December. She is holding off in an effort to include news about the Crafts & Arts Fair as well as the Bake Sale. The issue after that is slated for March, 2011.

6. **Affairs Committee** – Renee Rainey

   a. **Chili Dog Day Afternoon** – Recap on the event was very positive. We accomplished what we set out to do which is build morale and community with just the Civil Service employees. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

   b. **Bake Sale** – Everything is going along as planned. However, volunteers and bakers are still needed. Pat Smith pointed out that we generally request participation from all Civil Service employees, not just senators. Laura Owens promised to send out a request for volunteers to all Civil Service employees for both the Bake Sale and the Arts & Crafts Fair.

   c. **Arts & Crafts Fair** – On behalf of Karen Stuenkel, Lynne Clayton passed out flyers for each senator to take and post outside GSU to garner participation and attendees for the Fair. To date we have 19 artisans and 32 tables sold.

   d. **Civil Service Day** – Renee informed us that the date has once again changed, for the last time, to Wednesday, December 8th. There were room schedule conflicts on the 9th. A brief discussion was generated regarding how hamstrung we have been in the past few years in choosing a date since Dr. Maimon came on board. We will save a more in-depth discussion regarding this issue for early next year.

**New Business:** Laura Owens welcomed our latest senator, Ann Jaso from Health & Human Services.

Laura has been busy writing thank you notes to all participants of the Council of Councils. She will also be inviting all A&P to the Civil Service Day as servers for the lunch, she will invite all Trustees to attend the day and the lunch and she will request donations from the VP’s and the Provost for the table decorations. It was also mentioned that we historically also invite all Civil Service retirees to join us for the day’s celebrations.
**Old Business:** Laura informed us that the Executive Committee had been invited and did attend the Presidential Assessment with Dr. Atwell. She summarized that for the most part, the assessment was positive however, there were a few issues brought up regarding a lack of transparency from administration especially in regards to raises. Ann Jaso plans on writing a letter directly to Dr. Atwell with her concerns and offered up his address to anyone else who felt compelled to do likewise.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Sinwelski, seconded by Pat Smith. All agreed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 pm