



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2016

3:00PM

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,
ROOM 622**

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| ATTENDEES | Jason Dunavant, Jarrod Breithaupt, Amy Estes, Mary Schmeer, Katie Dawson, Sabrina McClain, Kristi Davis, Michael Davis, Russell Hollis, Kelli Cole |
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Agenda topics

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| CALL TO ORDER | A special meeting of the Staff Senate was held on January 25, 2016 in University Library, Room 622 and called to order at 3:10pm by Kelli Cole, President. A quorum was present. |
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| DISCUSSIONS | <p>The purpose of the meeting was to provide the committee with an update on the budget from President Bruno. At 1:00, President Bruno held a meeting with the vice-presidents, deans, and executive councils from the Staff and Faculty Senates. President Bruno stated that he was cautiously optimistic that things will be fine. Each institution was asked to submit a plan of what they would do if they were faced with a possible cut. ULM's portion of the cut would be approximately \$4.1 million. March 4, 2016 is the last day of the special session and we won't know anything definite until then. President Bruno plans to send another email to the campus community this evening or tomorrow regarding the budget which will detail the plan that was sent to the ULS system. Some points from the meeting that President Cole wanted to highlight were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- President Bruno wanted to remind everyone that if you or your colleagues wants to address the legislators, you must do so using your personal email account.- The President pointed out that our Spring numbers are up which should help our revenues. However, this is the last year of the grad act which allowed us to increase our tuition. We will have to wait for the new governor to unveil his plan to see what will happen with tuition increases in the future.- The proposed plan that was sent to the system included the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approximately \$1.5 million: Hiring freeze for the remaining of the year |
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- Approximately \$441,000: Reduce transfer to athletics
 - Approximately \$1.4 million: Furlough – 1 day per week for the remainder of the fiscal year
 - Approximately \$150,000: Reduction in travel
 - Approximately \$548,000: Layoff of 34 probationary staff members
- TOTAL: Approximately \$4.1**

Discussion and Questions:

- We will try to prepare a joint resolution from the Faculty and Staff Senate.
We will have a meeting to write the resolution on Thursday, January 28 from 12:30-2. Dr. Joshua Stockley is already working on the document.
- The Staff Senate is okay with having a joint resolution, however, they feel the proposed cuts will have a bigger impact on the Staff than the Faculty so the resolution needs to adequately represent the views of the Staff. It was also stated the two resolutions may be better since volume speaks louder.
- It was also asked if it was possible for some of the staff to attend the session? It was felt that this may be a little premature since the session does not begin until February 14. Another idea is to possibly have a rally on campus.
- Morale among the employees is really low at this point with all of the budget cuts.

Other Issues:

- President Cole has a meeting with President Bruno in the morning to discuss the trimester system, updating the staff handbook, and other items. Please email any input or additional questions to President Cole.
- At the last meeting, possible replacements for Meghan Mazza and Richard Duran were discussed. President Cole has asked Kirby Campbell to fill the vacant seat until elections are held in April. The Senate voted for Mr. Campbell.

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| CONCLUSIONS | There being no further business Senator Estes made a motion to adjourn; Senator Schmeer seconded. Motion passed. |
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