

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES-draft version
Wednesday January 4, 2006
Faculty Senate Chambers
D.H. Hill Library

Present: Shelia Ange, Valerie Ball, Jon Barnwell, JC Boykin, Bob Brinson, Tracy Brown, Jeff Cable, Corrie Cadwallader, Barbara Carroll, Kathy Fuller, Albert Genovesi, Nicole Harrell, Janet Harris, Cathy Harvey, Michelle Healey, Willie Healy, Miriam Hines, Carol Horne, Debbie Hunt, Thomas Hunter, Carrie Levow, Carina Lockley, Lucy Mabry, Todd Marcks, Laura Massengill, Tom Mease, Sherry Mosher, Richard Palmer, Samantha Parrett, Terry Price, Christy Scheid, David Serxner, David Setser, Brenda Shelton, Rob Stevenson, Mel Stoss, Rodney Vinson, Corrinna Watkins, Melissa Watkins, Leroy Wilkins and Sandee Zechman

Absent: David Beverly, Angie Chiatello, Randy Colby, Vanessa Hicks, Pat Hill, Felicia Mangum, Patty Routh, Phyllis Royal, Valerie Sameshima, Jim Wilder, Gail Willis and Natalie Worth

Guests: Chad Austin, News Services; Julie Garrison, Chancellor's Office; David Gregory, Tom Kendig and Christine Klein, Transportation; Terree Kuiper and Dianne Sortini, Human Resources; Kevin MacNaughton, Facilities.

Call to Order: Chair Melissa Watkins called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Guest Speaker: Greg Cain, Assistant Director of Transportation/Parking

Mr. Cain expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the Staff Senate and to review upcoming parking changes and proposed permit rate increases. The restructuring and increases in permit costs are necessary to generate revenue to prepare for a potential liability of \$6million should the North Carolina Supreme Court rule that the state constitutional law requiring parking fine monies be given to the county school system be applied retroactively to 1995. Currently there is \$2million in escrow to assist with compliance should the ruling include retroactive fine monies leaving a shortfall of approximately \$4million. NCSU Transportation is entitled to keep 10% of ticket-generated revenue for enforcement costs.

Hard copies of the recommended parking changes for 2006-2007 and proposed changes in parking permit prices for 2006-2009 (scenario #11) was distributed and the information contained therein was reviewed by Mr. Cain. The 2006-2007 proposed parking permit rate increase averages 9%. There are three recommended parking changes:

1. Restructure permit costs in order to provide an equitable balance of permit costs/service level and to provide increased revenue to replace fine monies lost in court case.
2. Redesign specific parking areas for consistent alignment; in particular, separate surface commuter student parking areas, provide consistent designations for Centennial campus parking decks and eliminate proximate free parking for Centennial campus students.
3. Address safety and identification issues with non-standard forms of transportation by creating policies that provide mechanisms for Transportation and Campus Police to handle safety, property damage and identification issues with alternative forms of transport.

Mr. Cain expressed his wish for suggestions and feedback on these proposed changes. He indicated the current proposal is the 11th scenario and there is time for changes prior to the April submittal to the Board of Trustees. This information will be presented to the student and faculty Senates and heavily publicized in order to provide campus community members the opportunity to review and offer feedback. To this end, Mr. Cain asked Senators to distribute this information to their constituents and then opened the floor to questions or comments.

The first query involved whether motorcycle permits were the same for faculty/staff and students to which Mr. Cain replied affirmatively and added motorcycle permits cost \$5.00 if the individual also has a vehicle parking permit.

A concern was raised about the inequity of the low cost trustee parking permit rate because it functions as a “B” permit. Due to infrequent usage, trustee permits are not viewed as interchangeable with an employee “B” permit.

Mr. Cain was asked and proceeded to review the history of the court case involving the possible multi-million dollar payout to the Wake County school system. He added that legislators have passed budgets with the projected revenue from fines deducted from school allotment figures so in actuality no additional funds are being given for use in the schools.

Mr. Cain could not reply to the query raised about what Administrators are doing to influence the legal decision to not have ten-year retroactive fine monies surrendered.

A query and concern was raised about the existence of a parking permit rate cap and whether or not lower paid employees are being properly considered in rate increase applications. Mr. Cain replied that there is no monetary cap to permit rates, that NCSU has considerably lower permit rates than UNC-CH and that the Transportation department is conscious of employee pay scales, namely that the “C” permit has the lowest rate of increase of all available permit types. This proposed rate increase outline is currently being reviewed by the full Physical Environment Committee. Proposed permit rate increases must be approved by the University Council Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees prior to implementation. The Staff Senate is the liaison between staff members and University Administration and therefore is the intermediary for voicing suggestions and concerns. The Chair responded that as a unified body the Staff Senate could compose a letter, formal resolution or propose changes to the Transportation department depending upon Senate discussions and constituent input. Mr. Cain did announce that the 2006-2007 rate increases are required to keep up with operating costs of 3,000 new parking spaces and there was little room for concession. The Staff Senate Chair sits on the University Council committee and vowed to voice staff members’ concerns at the next meeting.

A query was raised about whether this was a UNC system-wide concern and if so what were other Universities doing in response to the monetary payback? Mr. Cain acknowledged this as a UNC system-wide concern and added that UNC-CH is doubling its parking fees over the next few years, that ECU would also share this concern and that there would be less impact on smaller Universities.

A query was raised about whether a favorable decision by the North Carolina Supreme Court enabling NCSU to not pay retroactively would eliminate the permit rate increases. Mr. Cain replied that permit prices would “never go down” and inflationary increases should be expected.

A concern was raised that the latest legislative pay increase isn’t enough to cover the increases in permit and health care costs to which Mr. Cain agreed. The Staff Senate Legislative Liaison Committee Co-chair noted this as a “major concern” of this committee and members have made this known to some local legislators, however more feedback on this issue to other legislators is needed for stronger impact.

A query was raised whether Transportation and the campus community are communicating about generating additional commute options especially for early-start employees and those not in the financial position to afford a parking permit. Director of Transportation Tom Kendig replied that he is concerned about the rate increases’ negative impact on staff members and he is working with Vice Provost for Facilities Kevin MacNaughton and Director of Facilities Jack Colby to provide an alternative for early-start employees. He encouraged Senators to promote and all campus community members to take advantage of the U-PASS and Wolftrails commuter programs.

A comment was expressed that the sum of the three increases on the proposed permit prices (scenario #11) was not a true reflection of the actual monetary outlay needed to purchase the respective parking permit.

A comment was expressed that other considerations are necessary for the possible generation of \$4million dollars, of particular note that the NCSU ACHIEVE campaign has generated close to \$1billion dollars. The court decision was described as a legislative problem and that it is “unfair” to have the solution of generating

payback monies put on the backs of staff members. The Chair-Elect and Chair urged all staff members to supply feedback, suggestions and concerns to their Senator or to the Staff Senate Chair directly in order for the official Staff Senate response to be truly representative of staff members' concerns.

On a side note, there was a steam line break this morning; Cates Avenue is shutdown for an undetermined amount of time and phone lines in the area are down. It is likely affecting Carmichael Gym. The Administrative Secretary will send notice to the Senators in order for constituents to be informed of this situation.

Roll Call: Debbie Hunt performed a roll call to ensure accurate attendance records and personally welcomed the newly-elected Senators.

Approval of December 7, 2005 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved with two corrections.

Budget Report: Corrinna Watkins, Executive Assistant to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources:

Ms. Watkins reported there were no new expenditures posted, announced two commitments have yet to post and the remaining balance is \$6,459.94.

Administrative Report: Barbara Carroll, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources:

Ms. Carroll announced that January 13th is the deadline for submittal of 2005 leave entries.

On January 1, 2006 the State will change its' travel reimbursement to 44 ½ cents per mile.

On January 8th the cost of first-class mail will rise to 39 cents.

The Office of State Personnel has solicited agencies for assistance with testing Phase I career banding procedures. NCSU has volunteered to participate and is likely to be chosen. Phase I bands include numerous office support positions. Research of classifications and job title matching is needed.

Ms. Carroll urged Senators to promote upcoming Retirement and Financial Planning workshops to their constituents. Workshops were scheduled during lunch hours to make attendance easier. Schedules and registration is available on the Human Resources website.

The Quick Start pilot program begins tomorrow; program start-up is scheduled for March 2006.

Security access was completely rebuilt for the Human Resource System, previously known as Peoplesoft.

Benefits confirmation statements will be available online. Staff members were encouraged to review their statements.

Two comments were received from the floor: prompter updating of the on-line employee leave system was requested and assistance was requested to alleviate difficulties with on-line timesheets.

Committee Reports:

Chair:

The Chair attended a meeting to discuss fundraising efforts for the proposed on-campus child care facility and reported a strong level of commitment to this project from NCSU Administrators.

The Chair attended the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Open House on December 13th and the Chancellor's Open House on December 15th.

The Chair attended the commencement dinner, graduation ceremony and graduation luncheon. She recommended attendance at future graduation ceremonies for the oft interesting and entertaining addresses by

the commencement speakers.

Assistant Director of Transportation Greg Cain was the guest speaker at the December Executive Committee meeting.

On December 29th the Chair attended a memorial service for Vice Chancellor Leffler's daughter Julie Ann. The Chair read aloud Vice Chancellor Leffler's response to her December 15th letter addressing the negative morale and health effects of the recently announced temperature setback scheduled for the last week in December. She announced the Staff Senate is in the midst of composing a letter to the University Administration regarding the apparent lack of compassion, concern and caring for the staff and their health. She charged the Resources and Environment and Human Resources committees to work together to provide suggestions for managing campus energy costs including planning for the winter holidays.

Vice-Chair:

There was nothing new to report.

Governance:

The Committee Co-chair introduced and welcomed newly-elected Staff Senate members Debbie Douglas and Sara Reese (District 8) and Lee Thayne (District 12/13). She also announced the names of the other newly-elected Senate members Pat Hill and Felicia Mangum (District 9) and Natalie Worth (District 12/13) who were not able to attend this meeting.

Human Resources:

Committee members discussed the proposed increase in parking permit rates and the drafting of a resolution or letter vehemently opposing permit increases to solve a legislative problem noting any increase above an inflationary increase should be opposed.

Committee members discussed the recent temperature cutback's disproportionate affect upon staff members and energy conservation measures.

Committee members await a status update of the textbook loan program proposal.

Diversity:

Committee members carefully reviewed peer universities diversity training procedures and issues, in particular how to approach diversity training initiatives without increasing operational costs. Members will view the NCBI training program tape at their next meeting.

The Committee Chair showcased and reviewed particulars of the Staff Senate logo-embossed apparel options.

Public Relations:

The template for the redesigned Staff Senate website homepage was distributed for review. The redesign and ADA compliance work for the website is scheduled to be completed by February 1st. Ideas or concerns regarding the website's redesign should be addressed to Nicole Harrell.

Committee members have begun to revise the Staff Senate brochure and have a target completion date of February 15th.

The Open Forum will be held on March 9th from 9:00am-12:00pm. Chancellor Oblinger has been confirmed to give the opening remarks.

Resources and Environment:

Sam Miller, Customer Service Center Manager, was present at today's committee meeting to discuss issues concerning building liaisons in particular increasing visibility of and rewards for their efforts. Committee members will draft a letter to the Administration requesting recognition of and accolades for building liaisons.

Another computer has been distributed and two applications have been recently received for the Staff Senate's computer loan program.

Legislative Liaison:

Planning is near complete for the next legislator round table on-campus discussion featuring Representative Deborah Ross. Staff members' feedback concerning pay raises, benefits and parking concerns should be forwarded to Committee Co-Chairs Valerie Ball and Jon Barnwell for introduction at this meeting.

Old Senate Business:

There was no old Senate business discussed.

New Senate Business:

There was no new Senate business raised.

Announcements:

An event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on Friday January 13th at the 1st Baptist Church on South Salisbury Street. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

The spring semester begins on January 9th. Senator Harrell reported that many evening classes still have availability and that she would assist staff members in course registration.

The January Executive Committee meeting has been rescheduled to January 25th.

Remarks:

Guest speakers at the February 1st meeting with discuss housing and Human Resources training programs.

Adjournment:

The 6^h meeting of the 11th session was adjourned at 11:55am.

Next Staff Senate Meeting:

Wednesday February 1, 2006
10:00am-12:00pm
Faculty Senate Chambers
D.H. Hill Library

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday January 25, 2006
10:00am-12:00pm
Room 1115, Administrative Services I Building

Submitted by: Judith Strickland, Administrative Secretary

Debbie Hunt, Secretary
Staff Senate