Appalachian State University Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
224 I.G. Greer

Action items for Senators and Alternates:

- If you are interested in serving as Chair-Elect for 2014-15, contact Amy Sanders and Kathy Mann as soon as possible.
- Candidates for the Director of Human Resources position will be visiting campus in late May. Please attend the HR Director Search open forums if possible. The final two candidates will be May 28 and May 30. Both presentations will be in IG Greer Auditorium from 10:15 - 11:15am. Candidate information and recordings, as well as an anonymous feedback form where you can provide feedback on the candidates, is available here (secure site with ASU login required): http://chancellor.appstate.edu/user?destination=director-human-resources-search

Announcements:

- Congratulations to the 2014 Staff Senate Scholarship recipients: Elizabeth Dollar, Chyenne Hayler, Lindsay Hicks, Emily Miller, Dustin Parlier, Landon Powell, Juan Esteban Ramirez, Kellyn Stamey, Michelle Tibbett, Meredith Walker, Olivia Watson, and Austin Wilcox. Thanks to the Scholarship Committee for all of their hard work fundraising for and managing the scholarship program!

Attendance:

Present: Berry, Elaine; Broere, Courtney; Chambers, Robin; Craft, Betsy; Dale, Patty; Dehus, Sydney; Eckerd, Monique; Gainey, Courtney; Grant, Tony; Hoffman, Kate; Love, Amy; Mann, Kathy; McCaffrey, Kerri; Mitchell, Andrea; Richards, Brooke; Sanders, Amy; Sbarbaro, Katherine; Scarborough, Barbara; Snook, Kevin; Tibbett, Debi; Trivette, Cindy; Whittington, Kathy; Young, Vickie; Ziegler, Cathy

Excused: Anderson, Carol; Church, Lynn; Hicks, Sandy; Jones, Kim; Ray, Kathy; Smith, Janice

Absent: Barbee, Diana; Bentley, Teresa; Carpenter, Erin; Carter, Kim; Carter, Leslie; Childers, Erin; Deas, Kathy; Eggers, Gloria; Eldreth, Chelsie; Eller, Peggy; Gill-Johnson, Sali; Gragg, Debbie; Gryder, Alice; Harmon, Kara; Harrison, Kathy; Huffman, Julie; Hyle, Eddie; Hyle, Kristin; Jamison, David; Lowenberg, Diane; Lunsford, Mark; Lyons, Danna; Marsh, Clinton; Marshburn, Jason; McCormick, Marty; Merrell, Donna; Paige, Russell; Parnell, Regina; Perry, Amanda; Piazza, Joseph; Probst, Elizabeth; Ragan, Greg; Roach, Roy; Saunders, Shannon; Scott, Cathy; Tedder, Jamie; Tickle, Jeff; Travis, David; Wallin, Charlie; Waters, Robin; Watson, Lisa

Visitors: Susan McCracken, Director of External Affairs
Minutes:

1) **Meeting was called to order** by Kevin Snook at 1:30pm.

2) **Approval of minutes:** Cathy Ziegler motioned to approve the April 15, 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Betsy Craft. Minutes were approved by general consent with no changes.

3) **Treasurer’s Report:** Patty Dale motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report; Amy Sanders seconded. The report was approved by general consent with no changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Name</th>
<th>Acct #</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Account</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>109130</td>
<td>31.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Funds Account</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AppKIDS Fund</td>
<td>227202</td>
<td>5.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>990155</td>
<td>3,825.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt Supported Fund</td>
<td>990158</td>
<td>1,371.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Centennial Park Project Fund</td>
<td>992561</td>
<td>676.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation AppKIDS fund</td>
<td>992568</td>
<td>9,770.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASU Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund - Contribution</td>
<td>994931</td>
<td>20,037.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Scholarship Fund - Total Assets</td>
<td>994931</td>
<td>24,908.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4) **Guest speakers’ presentation** – Susan McCracken, Director of External Affairs:

a) Two relevant documents are linked from the Staff Senate website: [2014-15 Budget Priorities of the UNC Board of Governors](#); [UNC Proposed 2014 Policy Agenda](#).

b) North Carolina state budget update:

i) The Governor’s budget will come out tomorrow, and the state legislature will convene. Large cuts in higher education are anticipated.

ii) The state is facing a revenue shortfall of almost $500 million. It is not yet known exactly how much of the shortfall is from the changes to the tax code enacted last year, and how much of it is from other factors. Regardless, since tax revenue from personal withholding is decreasing after the changes to the tax code, an even larger state budget shortfall is expected in 2015. The revised tax code has certain changes that were supposed to go into effect in 2015 if specific thresholds/triggers were met, but it looks like those criteria will not be met, so no further changes to the tax code are anticipated next year. The Medicaid shortfall is approximately ~$160 million. The state budget director is projecting 1.6% growth in the economy, but even the economy grows at that rate, the resulting revenue will not be enough to compensate for the total revenue shortfall.

iii) The governor’s budget is expected to include pay increases for teachers. Some form of pay raise or bonus for state employees has been discussed, but few details are known.
iv) To enact pay raises for teachers and state employees despite a large budget shortfall, cuts are expected, and it is likely that some of those cuts will come from higher education. It is likely that the operating budget for the UNC system will be cut by 2-4%.

v) In February, the UNC system solicited input from each campus on budget priorities, which were compiled into the 2014-15 Budget Priorities of the Board of Governors. The operating budget request for next year totals about $2.6 billion, which is a <5% increase over the current year’s operating budget. (The 11% increase figure you may have heard on media outlets is distorted because it includes this year’s capital project requests. Capital projects are funded separately as non-recurring expenses; they are not folded into the operating budget.)

vi) The UNC system has requested maximum flexibility in handling cuts (i.e., UNC has asked the legislature not to do line-item cuts, and to allow the university system to choose where to make cuts).

vii) Capital projects – ASU has been trying to get funding for the new Health Sciences building (est. $8.2 million for planning costs and $82 million for the building itself). This year the UNC Board of Governors did recognize this project as a priority and include it in the capital budget request. There may not be any funding for non-recurring costs this year, but if there is, ASU is fairly well-positioned to receive support.

c) Policy Agenda for the UNC system. The UNC system is requesting:

i) Statutory authority that would allow the UNC system to hold back funds if we have a surplus at the end of the year; any funds that are rolled over would be directed to specific areas (e.g., infrastructure).

ii) Some type of in-state tuition policy for military-affiliated students. The UNC system would like more authority to define who is eligible to get in-state tuition. This would cost about $8 million in the first year.

iii) Authority for the UNC system to choose its own health program to comply with ACA standards. If the UNC system could administer its own health insurance plan rather than offering the State Health Plan, it has been estimated that about $2000/person could be saved.

iv) Ability to offer the Optional Retirement Program to SPA employees hired between August 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012.

v) Extension of tuition-free benefits for employees to three classes per year instead of two.

d) Question from Tony Grant: What’s the reasoning behind not being able to carry forward as much funding as we want from year to year? Susan McCracken: State budget analysts are not comfortable with the idea than an agency/university might have more resources than are known to the legislature. (However, this perception is inaccurate, since the university has to report on all funds, including any held-back funds.)

e) The Chancellor-Elect hopes to travel to North Carolina before her official start date of July 1 to spend some time with Susan McCracken at the state legislature before the end of June.
5) HR Update – Courtney Gainey: Candidates for the Director of Human Resources position will be visiting campus in late May. Please attend the HR Director Search open forums if possible.

6) Thanks from Senate to HR for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

7) Committee Updates:
   a) Membership Committee: We still need Chair-Elect candidates.
   b) Kathy Whittington – Chancellor Appreciation Event – The event will be June 27 at the Schaefer Center at 8pm. A save the date with instruction about obtaining comp. tickets is forthcoming.
   c) Scholarship Committee – Kathy Mann announced the recipients of 2014 scholarships:

      **Staff Senate Annual Scholarship Fund:**
      (1) Chyenne Hayler $250  
      (2) Lindsay Hicks $500  
      (3) Emily Miller $500  
      (4) Dustin Parlier $250  
      (5) Landon Powell $500  
      (6) Kellyn Stamey $250  
      (7) Michelle Tibbett $300  
      (8) Meredith Walker $500  
      (9) Olivia Watson $500  
      (10) Austin Wilcox $500

      **Staff Senate Endowed Scholarship Fund:**
      (11) Elizabeth Dollar $500  
      (12) Juan Esteban Ramirez $450

   d) AppKIDS – Just sent out an e-mail about collecting donations through Payroll.

8) Adjournment: Katherine Sbarbaro motioned to adjourn, seconded by Patty Dale. The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Love, Secretary