

Professional Staff Senate

University of Southern Maine
Wednesday, June 13, 2007
577 Science Building

Present: Lori Arsenault, Julie Atkins, Teona Beaulieu, Janis Burton, Susan Cota, Michelene Decrow, Kevin Granahan, Evelyn Greenlaw, Christine Hepler, Ross Hickey, Claire Hassler*, Stephen Houser, Eric James, Sheera LaBelle*, Kristina Lavoie, Mark Menezes*, Darlene Merrill, Edward Moore, Melanie Race, Pam Roy, Cheryl Thompson, Patti Volland, Colleen White*, Tom Wood

Absent: Jennell Carter, Emily Hallett*, Terri Pelletier*

Excused: Marjorie Jarry* and Suzanne Roy*

(* Outgoing Senators)

Introductions and Welcome – Senator Wood.

Binders also distributed to all Senators. Brief explanation of their contents by Senator LaBelle, with thanks to Senator Race for her help in creating them.

May Minutes - Approved as amended. Senator Race to make corrections.

Treasurer's Report - Colleen White

Listing of line item expenses this year. We currently have a \$646.83 balance.

Confusion/dispute over payment, via the President's Office, for our Recognition Reception has been resolved. Please do a formal request for funds in the future.

Reminder that we are usually asked to give \$250 for the Employee Development Day in Oct.

Report approved and submitted. Senator White thanked by Senator Wood for her work and assistance this year.

Senator Wood proposes a formal thank you to Robin Day for her continuing support and assistance with the Divisional Awards. Senators Decrow and Arsenault will craft a letter to recognize her contributions.

Election of 2007 – 2008 Officers:

Brief explanations given by current and past officers about what their role and duties are. Inquiry by Senator Burton about the Vice Chair / Treasurer position – by-laws would have to be modified to make this into two positions.

Election of Senate Chair: Senator White accepts nominees Houser Decrow (who declines). Senator Houser discusses his ideas for coming year. Senator Wood inquires about the community forums and Senator Houser replies that he would like to continue building on this year's endeavors. Senator Burton inquires about having a Retreat for the new Senate. Senator Houser would like to do this, perhaps with our current balance of funds. Senator Decrow thought that perhaps she could get monies for this event elsewhere. Senator Houser states that he does not want the Senate to flounder, that he wants to get off to a quick start! Senator Houser is elected unanimously.

Election of Senate Vice Chair: Senator White accepts the nomination of Senator Decrow who then makes a brief statement and is elected unanimously.

Election of Senate Co-Secretaries: Senator White accepts the nominations of Senators Granahan, Thompson, Hepler, Burton and Race (who declines). After brief statements by each nominee, Senators Helper and Burton are elected.

Outgoing Executive Committee – Brief remarks made by each to express their thanks, the positive aspects of being on the Senate and welcome to the new Senators. There is a reintroduction of everyone to latecomers. Senator Wood remarks that there are 823 Professional staff, 375 Faculty and 500 Classified staff. Senator Wood also mentions that Judy Ryan was excused today, but Senator Houser will need to contact her very soon to see if she will remain as our liaison to the President's Staff. That person will perhaps need to be included on our list-serve. Senator Granahan will try to change our list-serve members today.

Old Business – Senator Houser now formally takes over the chairing of this meeting.

Community forum prototype – need to sponsor a wider venue in the coming year. Plan will be to form a standing committee in July.

Question about Senate committees and who is currently on them. Executive committee will try to get this information out to Senators prior to the next meeting so people can be ready to volunteer. There are a couple end-of-year reports in the binders about Election committee and Divisional Awards committee.

Discussion about need to change timing and day of meeting. Resolution is that the Senate will continue to meet the second Wednesday of every month but it will now be from 2 – 4pm. July 11 will be the next meeting date. Locations for the meetings will probably remain the same.

New Business

Will definitely form committees at the July meeting.

Will set retreat date and get ideas for content. Location TBD (mention of Pineland as well as Lewiston-Auburn campus).

Motion to adjourn at 4pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 2pm.