February Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2012
10:00-12:00 UC 332-333

Welcome & call to order: President Laurie Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll call: Carol Bates

Attendees: Senators: Andi Armstrong, Carol Bates, Lisa Coon, Lanell Curry, John DeYoung, Laurie Fisher, Chuck Harris, Heather Hibbard, Slade Johnson, Maria Mangold, Denise May, Chelsea Rayfield, Sandi Robinson, Maryann Robison, Darlene Samson, Sharon Schneider, Hannah Singleton, Allison Squires, Brandie Terpe, Ann Weiler, Tammy Yedinak, Administrative Assistant, Judy Wellert

Excused: Beki Hartmann, Natalie Hiller-Claridge, Becky Maier

Absent: Phillip Flukas, Sharon Laramie, Gregg Potter

Approval of January minutes: President Fisher presented the minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting. Motioned to approve, seconded, motion carried.

Financial Report: President Fisher explained the updated financial report. The discrepancy in the January report had been resolved when the money designated for the administrative assistant position was added to the General Fund. Motioned to approve, seconded, motion carried.

New Business

Staff Survey Results Brainstorming Session: VP Samson split the senators into groups. Copies of the staff survey results from autumn 2011, the CVC goals and worksheets were distributed to each group. Senators were asked to brainstorm and come up with their top 3-5 issues they viewed as priorities from the survey. In addition, add ideas as to how Staff Senate can accomplish the goals, what overlapped with the CVC goals, additional resources that would be needed and a time-line for accomplishment.

The larger group reconvened after 20 – 30 minutes and each group shared their priorities. Communicating who we are and what we do topped most lists with suggestions of utilizing the UM Homepage, ForUM, Staff Senate open house (continental breakfast prior to a meeting & invite others) & Facebook. Other suggestions were professional development opportunities, ideas for employee recognition (non-monetary), staff advocates, highlighting a staff member or department each month.

The CVC committee will submit a list to all senators before the next meeting so we can make some decisions about how to proceed.
Ongoing Business

**MUSSA** — Senator Yedinak sits on the Montana University System Staff Association Committee (along with President Fisher and VP Samson). She opened discussion about whether to invite contract professionals to participate in Staff Senate. Comments for and against were presented after which Senator Yedinak decided to table the issue as senators were reluctant to vote without more discussion and information.

Senator Yedinak also strongly encouraged senators to respond to an email Judy Wellert sent February 6. MUSSA has been asked to represent Classified Staff in a focus group formed by the Montana Board of Regents to discuss compensation issues or concerns. The meeting is February 15th and they want employee’s input on four questions that will comprise the conversation. This is an exciting opportunity for staff to voice concerns.

**Meeting with Commissioner Christian** – President Fisher reported. Commissioner Christian commented on the need for Staff to have an overarching organization that will represent all MUS Staff at BOR meetings and legislative sessions. He is aware of the gap in compensation and cost of living (expressed that staff need a living wage). The Commissioner explained why the UM staff insurance program was solid with a good pool of reserve money. We provided him with copies of the newsletter, brochure and staff survey.

**Career Ladder Training**: VP Samson reported on the presentation Sheila Wright did for the University Council. Would SS like to offer a similar presentation/training to campus? CVC offered to follow up and investigate the possibility of some informational sessions.

**UM Town Hall Meetings**: Senator Rayfield has been in communication with ASUM regarding a town hall meeting but has had no response from Faculty Senate. Suggestions for meeting topics were: shared governance (continued conversations), campus-wide issues, health & safety, communication – where to get information, benefits & resources.

**Staff Senate Scholarships**: Everyone was reminded about the March 1st deadline for the scholarships available to full time UM students of staff members. Remind your colleagues.

**Senate Openings**: There are three senator openings. Encourage your colleagues to apply for a position.

**Committee Openings:**

- University Athletic Committee
- Parking Appeals Committee – Senator DeYoung volunteered for this position

**Committee Reports:**

CVC – Senators Rayfield & Coons shared a SS insert they have developed to be placed in new employee orientation packets. They have received approval so will provide copies for Human Resources

Senator Rayfield announced that CVC would like to change how Kudos is presented on the SS website to make it more visible and appealing. She also brought up the possibility of staffing a concession stand during football games in the fall noting that it would increase SS funding plus visibility & recognition. The idea was dropped due to lack of available
senators to help. Senator DeYoung suggested looking into Little Caesars as a possible fundraiser that would not require as much time commitment.

Other Announcements:
- Employee Recognition Day is April 20th
- Senator Weiler announced that this is Black History Month
- Maria Mangold was unanimously voted in as a new senator. Welcome Maria.

Next meeting: March 14, 2012 UC 332-333