April Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2012
10:00-12:00 UC 326-327

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, Laurie Fisher, Phillip Flukas, Chuck Harris, Beki Hartmann, Heather Hibbard, Becky Maier, Maria Mangold, Denise May, Chelsea Rayfield, Sandi Robinson, Darlene Samson, Sharon Schneider, Hannah Singleton, Allison Squires, Brandie Terpe, Ann Weiler, Tammy Yedinak, Administrative Assistant, Judy Wellert & Visitors: Shane Heivly, Kathleen O’Leary & Jimmy Stevens

Excused: John DeYoung, Natalie Hiller-Claridge, Slade Johnson, Gregg Potter, Maryann Robison

Absent: Sharon Laramie, Roberta Mistrick

Approval of March minutes: President Fisher presented the minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting. Motioned to approve, seconded, motion carried.


Visitors: Everyone in attendance introduced themselves since we had three visitors.

New Business

Scholarship results: The five (5) SS scholarship winners were announced: Meghan Minnick, Karly Whisman, Sarah Hogue, Tyler Davis, & Cassandra O’Leary. An award ceremony honoring the winners will be held during the May SS meeting.

Newsletter: An email with possible newsletter topics has been sent to all senators. Please email your ideas for inclusion to Judy Wellert no later than April 16th and articles to her by April 27th.

Spring Raffle: Senator Coon explained the purpose of the raffle, which is to raise money for staff recognition events (i.e. Free concessions during a movie offered this summer). Tables in the UC & LC are currently staffed by senators to sell tickets through Thursday, April 19th. About 100 tickets have been sold so far. Wellert had ticket envelopes available for all senators to sell on their own. Tickets are $1.00 each or $5.00 for six. Money and tickets must be turned into Senator Coon by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 19th.
**Elections:** Senator Curry reported that nomination forms for new senators would be sent through email & requested their return to her by April 18th. Senators May & Mangold volunteered to serve on the Elections Committee. The committee will meet on April 19th to finalize the nominations.

Administrative Assistant Wellert will print election forms to send out with May 4th as the return date. Ballot results will be announced at the May meeting. New SS officers will be elected during the June meeting.

Senator Yedinak recommended a memo be sent to all Academic Officers asking the deans to encouraged staff participation in Staff Senate.

Since the senate is not following the by-law's time line for the elections, a motion was made to approve the new election schedule for this year. Motioned to approve, seconded, motion carried.

**Communication Student Project:** Four communication students facilitated a brainstorming workshop with the senators on how to create awareness of and interest in Staff Senate within the campus community. They began with a power point presentation followed by group brainstorming to come up with specific ideas on how this could be accomplished.

Each small group gave examples of ways their group would suggest communicating with staff and expanding awareness of SS. Some suggestions mentioned were:

- Succinctly expressing the SS goals as: Advocacy, Information & Representation
- Improving our social media marketing
- Work to increase UM student recognition of staff's importance
- Make our logo more visible on coasters, televisions in the UC & other places
- Provide mentors for new staff senators

President Fisher expressed her thanks to the Communication students who facilitated the workshop. She urged everyone to give her the feedback forms the Communication students had for us.

**Information Technology:** IT Representatives Gordy Pace & Janet Sedgley gave a presentation about the strategic planning that has been going on in their department. They performed a survey to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the IT on campus and to help form a vision for what IT could be for the University with the understanding that this is a multi-year process. They are currently working with three consultants to clarify the perspectives of different departments’ IT needs and to find ways to work together to avoid duplication of efforts and avoid using conflicting programs. They, and Senator Harris, urged us all to read the IT Strategic Plan on their website: [www.umt.edu/it/strategicplan](http://www.umt.edu/it/strategicplan) and to encourage the technical people in our departments to read it. They would welcome feedback or questions on that plan. Some changes are already being made.
**Staff Development:** Senator Singleton reported that attendance at Sheila’s workshops on Staff Compensation was high. She asks that Wellert send a notice out through SS for suggestions on new ideas for staff development through Human Resources.

**Miscellaneous:**
Senator Mangold urged all senators to take part in the thank-you-note-writing campaign on the Oval April 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Senator Hartman reported that Student Affairs Housing is adding a service on their website to facilitate housing “exchanges” for faculty and staff.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting: May 9, 2012 UC 332-333**