



**Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Hardeman Student Service Center, room 206**  
**October 17, 2016 @ 3 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum**

Farrah Lokey, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m., and quorum was established.

**Senators Present:**

Jason Brake, Leonor Constancio, Farrah Lokey, Kerri Mikulik, Bradley Petty, Judy Polunsky, Elicia Rankin, Judy Stanley, Andrew Waggoner

**Senators Excused:**

Paula Dowler, Michelle Norris, Eddie Rodriguez, Kelsey Samsel, Chris Steele

**Alternates who Signed-In:**

Sandra Rosser

**Visitors who Signed-In:**

Kurtis Neal (Director – Human Resources), Jessica Bond (Manager of VA Benefits – VETS Center), Susan Williams (Director – VETS Center), Alicia Ernst (Annual Fund & Scholarship Coordinator – Development), David Parker (Director – Director of Risk and Emergency Management), Martha Cox (Bursar – Controller’s), Hal Peter (Associate Director – Facilities Management), Tanner Bryant (Technology Services Manager – IT), Luann McCorkle (HR Specialist – Human Resources), Dallas Swafford (Director – Student Disability Services), Kristie Walton (Counselor – University Clinic)

**II. RAMStar Awards**

RAMStar Awards were presented to staff present. Remaining awards were distributed through interdepartmental mail.

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**

Jason Brake moved to approve the previous minutes. Judy Stanley seconded, and the motion carried.

**IV. Guests**

Human Resources Update - Kurtis Neal, Director

- Continue to attend the FSLA trainings; review our website for dates and times.
- We are on the honor roll for Great Colleges to work for, and we will celebrate in the C.J. from 4-6 PM on October 18.



Neuro and Physical Diversity Week - Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Disability Services & Kristie Walton, Counselor in the University Clinic and Advisor for Spectrum

- We are working with student organizations to do a neuro and physical diversity week, and we are seeking the support of the Staff Senate as we move forward.
- More high functioning students on the autism spectrum are going to college, and our goal is to reduce the stigma by fostering an accepting environment.
- April is Diversity Awareness month, and we want to celebrate Neuro and Physical Diversity Week the first week with an awareness walk, panel discussion, information table, and other activities throughout the week. Pride Week is also the first week of April hosted by Multicultural and Student Activities Programs.
- Judy Polunsky: Do we have a lot of students who are diagnosed at the college level?  
Kristie Walton: Yes, but students don't want to join Spectrum because of the stigma. We only know of these students through confidential reporting like the Student Affairs Office and counseling services.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

Staff Excellence Awards (62225)	
Beginning Balance	\$3,500.00
Staff Senate (62226)	
Beginning Balance	\$1,200.00
Available Balance	\$1,200.00

**VI. Committee Reports**

**Staff Relations**

Kerri Mikulik:

- We don't have a lot of social events, but we do have many volunteer opportunities.
- Ram Jam/Pink Out is this Saturday.
- Feast of Sharing is November 6. They want names, so sign up ASAP.
- Christmas Light Tour is December 9 from 6 PM – midnight with 1.5 hour shifts.
- Ram Jam is on November 12 from 3 – 6 PM, and the Alumni Center needs help with various tasks from setting up to serving food.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

Staff Employee Scholarship

- Staff Recognition Committee has not discussed changes. Changes need to be voted on before updates can be made.

State Employee Charitable Campaign

- Sandra Rosser brought the giveaways to drop off.

**VIII. New Business**

N/A



**IX. Miscellaneous (comments, announcements, and roundtable times)**

David Parker, Director of Risk and Emergency Management:

- I've seen previously that you could write in a charity for the State Employee Charitable Campaign, but that is not an option now. It would be nice if it were.
- Farrah Lokey: Charities have to apply and meet specific criteria to participate. We can look into it further though, if you like.
- We had 38 people from the across campus participate in the Storm Spotter class, which is a great turn out. We have renewed our classification as a Storm Ready University for the next 3 years.

**X. Adjournment**

Farrah Lokey moved to adjourn the meeting. Leonor Constancio seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 PM.

Approved:  
Farrah Lokey, Secretary