

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSEMBLY
STAFF LIFE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2007-APRIL 2008

MEMBERS:

James “Bradley” Barnes, Undergraduate Admissions Counselor

Joan M. Barth, Institute for Social Sciences Research [Secretary]

Kristi E. Dyer, Intercollegiate Athletics

Katie Gilbert, Director, Capstone International Services

Peter G. Hodgson, CCS, Environmental Training Coordinator

Audrey R. O’Neal, Human Resources

Robert L. Palmer, Facilities Consulting Liason

Charlie Reinehr, Undergraduate Admissions

Victoria S. Santana, Purchasing Contract Administrator

Diedre S. Stalnaker, Office of Public Relations

Samual C. Strother, Senior Program Analyst

Lynn F. Tobola, School of Social Work, Librarian [Chair]

Several members were also the Professional Staff Assembly representatives on University Standing committees.

MEETINGS: The Committee met on the second Tuesday of each month in May, June, August, September, October, November & December of 2007 and January, February, March, and April of 2008.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: The majority of the summer and fall meetings were focused on meeting with campus representatives of the Parking and Transit teams to discuss professional staff concerns regarding the new transit and parking system set to begin in the fall of 2007. The Professional Staff Assembly as a whole sent a resolution to the President, the Provost and other relevant persons on campus regarding the concerns of professional staff parking issues. The committee drafted a letter as an introduction to the concerns of professional staff.

The committee reviewed the top five concerns of professional staff that were the results of the survey distributed by the previous Staff Life Committee [2006-07] and drafted a second survey that was distributed at the October Assembly meeting regarding parking and transit issues following two months of using the new system. The results of survey are included with the paper copy of this report to the new President of the Assembly for 2008-09.

Basically, most professional staff were still parking in the same location (70%); parking situations have not changed (59%); ninety two percent of professional staff were not using the transit system to get to and from work places; and, approximately 77% were either neutral, satisfied or very satisfied with the new transit system.

The Staff Life Committee also drafted letters to be distributed with the no smoking policy and annual review resolutions and that were also sent to the President, the Provost and Deans and program directors.

The second topic that the committee discussed at length was the day care situation on campus. The University maintains a Child Development Resource Center that is a research facility affiliated day care center. Discussion focused on how much of problem on-campus day care is (e.g. extensive waiting lists with few slots), the criteria for being enrolled, the mission of the center, the capacity of the center, the impact of lack of care on work schedules of employees (e.g. not returning to work full time after the birth of a child), the value of campus daycare on recruitment and retention, other assistance available to University employees regarding day care and how much of a priority this is for professional staff. After several lengthy discussions and informal polling of professional staff across campus, it was decided that the day care issue was not a significant enough concern to draft a survey to get official feedback from professional staff. Most professional staff had been and are using off campus daycare and have made adjustments to their work schedules to compensate for the time needed to take children to day care and pick them up in the evenings.

A third topic of discussion was related to health care issues that also came out as a concern on the first professional staff survey conducted in 2006. Several attempts were made to have the chair of the University standing committee on Benefits attend a Staff Life meeting to initiate discussion. This did not happen.

Other topics the committee discussed were having a recycling program on campus during game days. It was agreed that this was amore appropriate area for the outreach committee. There was discussion regarding the fact the University does not close for either Memorial Day or Veteran’s Day or have any kind of programs in place for those days. It was agreed that some gesture or observance would benefit university employees who have lost someone in a war or who know veterans.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance at most of the meetings was rather disappointing. There were only 2-3 meetings that had more than 50% of the committee members present. This was due to the fact that several members have positions in which last minute events and meetings kept them from being able to attend the regularly scheduled meetings on Tuesday mornings. The members who were present conducted lively productive discussions.

Submitted 6-17-08

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