



PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSEMBLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

ASSEMBLY MEETING

20 June, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Cali Davis, President.

**Roll Call:** The roll was called by Kristina Hopton-Jones, Secretary. 75 members were present at roll call. Congratulations PSA, 75 is the highest member attendance ever! Quorum achieved at June meeting.

David Brown has volunteered to be the Parliamentarian for PSA. The PSA voted unanimously to appoint David Parliamentarian.

Charlotte Harris is a special guest at the meeting today. She is here to answer any questions and participate in discussion regarding domestic partner benefits.

Mark informed the assembly that he requested the presence of UA legal counsel to participate in the discussion but they declined citing attorney client privilege.

**Minutes Approval:**

Darrell Hargreaves made a motion to approve the revised April PSA minutes.

Allison Arendale seconds the motion. The April minutes are approved unanimously.

Janet Griffith made a motion to approve the revised May PSA minutes.

Adam Miller seconds the motion. The May minutes are approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

According to the approved May minutes, the PSA is meeting today to vote on whether or not to support the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee Resolution Assessing the Probable Financial Impact of Adoption of Domestic Partner Benefits for the University of Alabama Community.

No motion to vote.

Floor open to discussion:

Mike Reid received several emails from his co-workers all asking the same question, "since UA is a State Institution, would adopting domestic partner benefits be legal?"

Adam Miller made the comment that we do not need to know if it is legal or not. This policy decision is not going to be made by the PSA. This vote is simply the group's feeling on the issue and whether or not to support it.

Charlotte Harris supported Adam's comment by adding that she has discussed this with Mike Spearing in the Office of Counsel at a Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee meeting. The UA counsel office reply to this type of question is that it is the roll of the legal office, working with UA administration on the policy and legality of proposal. The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee should not consider legality in discussions.

Mark Foster noted the similar policy discussions in the US at this time. Michigan's courts ruled that policies that universities put forth may not discriminate. The court ruled that the university could not have a policy that excludes someone else.

Claire Griffith wanted to clarify that opposite sex partners would be included along with same sex partners.

Ray Gowhari asked if the vote could be taken on paper ballot.

David Brown, Parliamentarian, directed the assembly that Ray's request would require a motion when we vote.

Janet Griffith made a motion to end discussion.

Darrell Hargreaves seconds the motion to end discussion.

The assembly unanimously votes to end discussion.

Rick Swatloski makes a motion to vote on whether the PSA supports the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee Resolution Assessing the Probable Financial Impact of Adoption of Domestic Partner Benefits for the University of Alabama Community.

Dan Daly seconds the motion.

Wendy McMillian makes a motion to vote by paper ballot.

Ray Gowhari seconds the motion.

Ballots are distributed and collected. Mark, Kristina, and Cali count and certify ballot votes.

Yes (support resolution) = 54

No (do not support resolution) = 20

Abstention = 1

The PSA will support the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee Resolution Assessing the Probable Financial Impact of Adoption of Domestic Partner Benefits for the University of Alabama Community. Mark Foster will draft a document to formally respond in support of resolution.

Julia Hartman makes a motion to thank Charlotte Harris for attending the meeting today.

Beth Riggs seconds the motion.

The assembly unanimously votes to thank Charlotte Harris.

**Announcements:**

Steering Committee: 12 June, 3:00pm Housing Conference Room

Officer Pictures will be taken immediately following the meeting today.  
McNair Scholar survey is on the PSA website. Please take time to complete.  
PSA General Meeting: August 21 at 3:00pm, location TBA

Adjourned at 1:45pm