

**Minutes of  
The University of Alabama - PSA Staff Life Committee Meeting  
May 21, 2008 3:00-4:00PM, Room 17 Bidgood Hall**

**Meeting Purpose:**

First Meeting Introduction and Year Plan

**ROLL CALL**

Distributed name cards

Present: Kendra Daily, Jeanelle Graham, Brian Humm, Audry O'Neal, Jana Powell, Jeff Robinson, Debbie Wyatt (Chair)

*Absent w/no substitutions: Bradley Barnes, Robert Baxter, Dan Daly, Ray Gowhari, Allison Leitner, Julie McAdams, Casey Redmill*

**OUR MISSION**

Reviewed handout of our committee description taken verbatim from website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair served as Secretary of initial meeting. Asked for any volunteers – none were present. Chair suggested appointing someone again in next meeting. If no one takes position, Chair will appoint a different member at each meeting.

University Standing Committees

Encouraged members to sign-up so we could have one “University Standing Committee” represented at our Staff Life meetings. In turn, we will be able to report accordingly at the General Assembly.

Next Meeting Date

Everyone agreed to keep the meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in order that the Chair can present at the Steering Committee (meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month), followed by the Gen Assembly that meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Everyone was instructed to schedule themselves out 1 ½ hours to allot time to and from meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. No meeting held in July. If cannot make meeting, instructed to send a substitute. All future meetings, unless noted, will be held in Rm 4 Bidgood Hall.

Note—E-Meetings was discussed but not deemed appropriate for our sizeable group. It was agreed that we all receive too many emails as it is. The Chair suggested opening a Facebook page for our committee for members to access the latest findings in order to reduce e-mail overload. It was agreed to be brought up at our June meeting for discussion.

## **Other DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Chair met with former chair Lynn Tobola (Librarian of Social Work) who will provide us a copy of the 2007-08 year end report soon in order that we may see as a committee what actually transpired. Parking/Transit topic – nothing new to add.

### **Faculty/Staff Benefit Support**

Handouts (taken from website) were distributed and our members discussed the following findings met from the Gen Assembly of May 16, 2008. Our discussion included whether individuals or committees such as ours, would submit any feedback to Dr. Gilbert. It was agreed by us that the Resolution was already set as in the handouts, but had a few items that should be reviewed by our Legal Counsel in order to make any kind of vote at the next Gen Assembly and/or to respond to Dr. Gilbert:

1. What validity did these examples actually have?
2. Is the validity regulated by the city of Tuscaloosa for verification or the State of Alabama?
3. In order to prevent fraud, is there follow-up to this regulation?
4. Would there be a penalty if they were broken?
5. Who or what determines “household expenses shared by both partners?” (Roommates share such expenses all the time whether same sex or opposite sex)
6. “A joint mortgage or lease” (same roommate situation applies as above)
7. How long does a partner benefit remain active if the partnership dissolved?
8. Would there be a penalty for both parties involved if found the partnership stopped existing longer than 30 days?
9. Do partner benefits fall under the same criteria such as “prê-existing conditions” as married and single benefits states?
10. All agreed #6 of the Example Criteria had very weak attributes considering only 3 or more had to be validated.
11. Our group also agreed to avoid fraud, these #6 items could be dissolved a lot easier than a marriage and must be reviewed by the Legal Counsel to be considered.

### **Review Smoking Ban Policy at Building Entrances**

Chair discussed request by outside committee member inquiry of “prohibiting smoking at building entrances.” Discussions included this policy was already in existence on campus but whether it was 20 feet or 200 feet was not known. Chair stated the Deans of each college have authority over their buildings, as do most universities. And members of SGA would also have to be involved if this was put on the table for review since it involved students. Also discussed whether visitors applied to the same rules as students/faculty/staff since they utilize the buildings well. Discussion concluded that since UA is a state institution, it should fall under the same guidelines of the State of Alabama and its latest rules and regulations.

### Volunteer Activities

Review of United Way upcoming event led by PSA member, John Kasberg. Chair suggested everyone try and commit to this one day event to support PSA.

### FINAL CLOSING MINUTES

Committee agreed to have Chair discuss with PSA President the importance of its role as Staff Life Committee and to define its existence since after review of website minutes, etc., the group came to no conclusion of what its purpose actually served other than reviewing policies of a committee, bottling guidelines, and an active voice on campus. Committee members questioned why the General Assembly required so many meetings if nothing was ever being passed by this committee.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4pm**