The Staff Senate General Meeting was called to order by Staff Senate President Kara Hall at 9:00 a.m. in the Bonnie, Hurlburt Combo Room

Senators and Alternates Present: Sam Shumate, Marie Testerman, Norma Whitlow, Benny Skeens and Tabitha Greear

Advisors/Liaisons Present: Not present

Senators Excused:

Number of other attendees: 16 – List to be made available upon request.

Kara Hall called the meeting to order.

A quorum was present.

The April agenda was approved.

Minutes from February 20th were approved.

Reports from Standing Committees:
  b. Elections and Nominations – Feel Free to nominate- Plan to send out email with more information.
  c. Communications – No report.
  d. Staff and Community Relations
     i. Scholarship – John Cox provided information about how we contribute/premise behind it and how does it work? Foundation website has more information
        -Donations are made, money is then invested
        -Where is the money going and who is the money going to when awarded?
        -Currently full time staff dependent of is eligible. Is this limited or can grandchildren be eligible?

Kara Hall met with Bruce Cunningham and he is present today as well. Kara shared the following from her meeting:
  -the possibility of changes but would have to research more.
  -Possibility of combining scholarships such as Facilities and Staff Senate
  -Would like to see this is available for staff including growth of the scholarship, information about it more readily available including who was it awarded to.
Kara mentioned updates to the application process. Bruce later added by enabling students to apply completely online they can search and can apply for scholarships. In addition students can provide email address for recommendations to be sent.

Financial Aid currently makes the decisions but Kara and Benny mentioned the possibility of Staff Senate being more involved in the process in order to make more personable.

Bruce Cunningham then spoke and shared his grandfather was once President of RU and Peters Hall was named after him. He then shared the following:
- Current balance of Staff Senate Scholarship is 30,000- payout is 4%
- RU currently has 320 scholarships
- 82% of RU students need financial assistance

He added they are currently working on ways to communicate more with RU campus on what is available as well as helping us with our concerns.

One suggestion made was to organize a committee to facilitate this- Sandra Steel offered to assist Staff Senate.

ii. VGEA – No report.
iii. Spirit Committee – No report.

Reports from University-Wide Committees:
- a. Diversity & Equity Action – Will form a conference in Fall and will be open to all staff and will be. This will occur during a weekday so staff and others will be able to attend.
- b. Intercollegiate Athletics – No report.
- d. Budget and Planning – No report.
- e. University Executive – No report.
- f. Dining Services Advisory Committee – No report.
- g. Bookstore Advisory Committee – No report.

Kara Hall introduced our guest speaker Sandra Steele.

Sandra Steele discussed “Keeping it Green” which will be awarded at the staff picnic
- The recipient will be a RU employee “who exemplifies sustainability initiatives at Radford University.”
- Recipient will receive a gift of $50.00 and framed certificate
- The deadline is Tuesday April 22nd which is Earth Day
Human Resource Issues: No report.

Comments & Announcements:

Staff picnic- Kara will contact Presidents office and work with committee on planning as well as request summer hours and Spirit Days.

Housekeeping brought up the issue of Essential/Non-essential State Employees due to having to come in during snow days to clear sidewalks. Concerns came up concerning physical requirements.

Kara recommended they communicate with HR. However, offered to contact and invite Christina Brogden, Executive Director & Chief HR Officer to attend the next meeting. Kara asked that they provide questions for Christina ahead of time.

Meeting was adjourned: 10:33 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17th, 2014 at 9:00 am in Hurlburt Hall 249/250.

/s/ Norma Whitlow, Recording Secretary
Minutes pending approval at March meeting.