

Addendum I: President's Report

Staff Senate President's Report February 8, 2017

This report is a brief summary of topics covered in various committee meetings attended by the Staff Senate President. The Staff Senate President also has monthly meetings with both Dr. Jones and Dr. Powell to discuss relevant topics as it concerns Staff Senate. The purpose of this report is to pass along relevant information to Staff Senators as well as the entire staff population.

Legislative Update via Dr. Jones-

HB1249 the Guns on Campus:

Bill passed house committee last week. Dr. Jones, along with every other president and chancellor in the state, all members of the various board of trustees, and all of the Campus Police Chief's oppose this legislation. Dr. Jones will continue doing all they can to fight the bill. Dr. Jones also mentioned that he has had some very respectful e-mails from students who have shared their support of the bill with Dr. Jones.

Productivity funding will be signed by the Governor Wednesday morning (2-8-17). This changes the way higher education is funding. Previously our state funding was based on an input model (ie: how many students we bring in). The new funding model is now an output based model. 100% of our funding will now be based on retaining and graduating our students.

Senate Bill 39:

This is a new bill that was just introduced. It deals with the Lottery Scholarship. This is a very new bill so it will most likely go through several revisions. It would provide a path for those students who didn't meet the requirements to receive the Lottery Scholarship out of high school to become eligible after their freshman year at college. For instance, if a student didn't have a high enough ACT score prior to entering college but earns a 2.5 GPA and 27 hours during their freshman year, they would be eligible to apply for the Lottery Scholarship at that point. This is a bill that Dr. Jones supports and will continue to follow.

Tax Cuts:

Dr. Jones has asked us to remember that as tax cuts are being proposed this will/can have an impact on HSU and higher education in general. Those cuts have to come from somewhere.

On the National level of the travel ban... a stay has been issued:

Several people on campus have expressed being nervous about the ban. Currently 3 students are impacted by the ban. The University has been in touch with all of them and encourage them to stay in the country and not return home until we see how everything plays out. No faculty/staff have currently been identified as being from the countries currently included in the ban, but could be impacted if the ban is extended to boarding countries.

This brings up the e-mail that was sent out earlier this week. Please be cautious about expressing your personal political views on University time and with HSU resources/e-mail. This

is NOT to say you can't express your personal views, simply make an extra effort to ensure you aren't being perceived as representing the views of the University.

Committee Handbook:

This is something that hasn't been done in a couple years but will soon be coming out. The committee preference form will be e-mailed out within the next month or so. Please make sure you respond to this e-mail and provide your preference. Not filling out the form doesn't mean you will get out of serving. The President pointed out that the shared governance system we are moving towards only works if EVERYONE is ACTIVE. Please serve on committees and be ACTIVE in those you serve on. It's important to be involved, attending meetings and inform others of what is covered at those meetings.

HSU Foundation Scholarship System:

The applications have now moved online. Please encourage students you come in contact with to apply! They fill out a general application that helps "auto-match" the student to applications they may be eligible for. So far 260 applications have been completed with 50 or so more in progress. The deadline is March 31st for current HSU students and May 1st for incoming students. This move from paper applications to online is opening up the applications and leveling the playing field for all students. www.hsu.edu/foundation

Health Insurance Update:

The orthodontics issue has now been fixed. Kathy Taylor sent out an e-mail with more details on this Tuesday. Children under the age of 19 have coverage. However, only new services are eligible. Everyone should have their cards. There is some confusion because the vision cards actually say Delta Dental in the top right corner. That's because superior vision is a subsidiary of Delta Dental group. The dental insurance cards says dental in the bottom right. Next year they hope to have an on-line enrollment process in place. The Fringe Benefits committee will have their next meeting February 22nd. The president would like to explore being self-insured. This is an issue we will most likely here more about in the coming months.

A staff member had expressed an interest in having the new Quick Grab area open when classes aren't in session. I discussed the issue with Dr. Powell. He thinks this is something that is possible and will talk with Aramark about. It may be a more limited selection than is offered when students are on campus but will be something to explore. It will most likely roll out on a trial basis. If the services are being utilized enough during those times, they would continue.