Professional Staff Senate Meeting
Senate Meeting Notes
Wednesday, November 9, 2011
Boyington, Student Union Building

In Attendance
Kristine Barney, Robert Buel, Sari Byerly, Jami Dye, Dan Griggs, Chris Hyer, Peter Jurhs, Mark Messing, Sundi Musnicki, Kathleen Tuck, Karen Wargo, Marlene Weis

Absent
Corrine Henke

Guest
Bruce Newcomb, Director of Government Affairs

I. Call to Order
Kathleen called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

II. Review and approval of minutes from September meeting
Mark motioned to approve the minutes, Dan seconded the motion and the committee voted unanimously to approve the October 12th meeting minutes.

III. Treasurer’s report
Appropriated - $1,670.79
Local - $3,705.07
Kristine motioned to approve the treasurer’s report, Robert seconded the motion and the committee voted unanimously to approve the report.

IV. Guest Bruce Newcomb
a. Discussed the enrollment workload adjustment (EWA), a policy created to balance state resources per student so universities can keep pace with enrollment growth. This policy has not been equitable amongst Idaho universities and Boise State is currently in arrears $14 million. Idaho State University’s EWA funding exceeds Boise State’s by a third. The President’s Office is working with state leaders to bridge this gap. This year there is a surplus of $162.2 million over and above the Joint Finance- Appropriations Committee (JFAC) target. This surplus lends possibility for us to continue to pursue equitable contributions toward equitable EWA. We recently hired Amy Johnson, a former analyst for JFAC, and we are hopeful that her experience and expertise will help translate academic accounts into terms that JFAC can understand.

b. Bruce attended a presentation for USTAR, a collaboration of universities and state systems in Utah. The program in Utah was designed to work with businesses around the state to help develop new business. It has helped Utah improve its MSNBC rating for friendliest states to do business with from 28th to 8th. Idaho is currently working on a similar initiative called IGEMS. Meetings with the Governor’s Office are currently underway, and it will be in the State of State. Boise State will support research in applied science fields.

c. Bruce also talked about the gun bill initiative backed by the NRA. He shared suggestions for professional staff involvement to support the university position on
the bill. He mentioned that building personal relationships with our legislators has more impact than approaching the legislature as an association.

d. Kathleen asked if there has been discussion on salary increases for the upcoming fiscal year. Bruce’s response is that government officials would like to support salary increases but nothing has been finalized or approved. He suggested identifying candidates or legislators on voter.com and writing them personalized letters to support salary increases.

V. Old business
a. Football Throwing Contest: The event was a smashing success, with over 50 participants. There was a small miscommunication on one of the prizes but it was resolved to everyone’s satisfaction. Several participants suggested moving the event from the Caven-Williams Sports Complex to the blue turf. We will keep this in mind for next year and may need to move the event up to accommodate the change in venue.

b. Bronco PrimeTime: Thank you all for your participation. All of the door prizes were warmly accepted with the exception of the pizza which was not claimed. The senate decided to tape it under a guest chair at the November luncheon.

c. Fall luncheon planning: The menu was finalized, teriyaki stir-fry. We have four student speakers presenting a four to five-minute speech and four staff members speaking for 90 seconds. All speakers will send Karen their presentation materials and Marlene is consolidating all of the presentations into one document. Kathleen requested names of all speakers so that she can introduce them. The Senate decided that we do subsidize VP lunches. Sari, Marlene, Chris, Karen, and Kathleen will arrive early to help check guests into the luncheon.

II. New Business
a. Professional Staff of the Year monetary award/certificate: We will award a $75 gift certificate to the recipient of the Professional Staff of the Year award. Sundi will prepare certificates for all of our nominees and an award certificate for our Professional Staff of the Year award recipient.

b. Greenbelt Sign: We would like to post a picture of our Greenbelt sign on the website. If you happen to notice where it is, please forward a picture to Kathleen.

III. Announcements
a. Emergency Notification Alert: A test alert is schedule to go out to all of campus today before noon.

IV. Adjourn
Kathleen adjourned the meeting.