

Present:

Evana Barrett, Kristina Boggan, Martina Brewer, Kelli Coleman, Gazel Giles, Carl Hill, Clate Holleman, Kelly Houston, Jamie Irby, Jeff McManus, Joanne Mitchell, Jean Munson, Kara Parham, Cynthia Rimoldi, Pam Smith, Sovent Taylor, Johnette Taylor

Absent-Excused:

Premalatha Balanchandran, Shannon Dixon, Melissa Downey, Judy Hart Forester, Alicia Goodson, Shellie Harrison, Valerie Haynes, Mae Johnson, Natcha Knight-Evans, Robert Metzger, Earl Presley, Christy Cox White

Roll call: (Sign-in sheet)

Call to Order: The March Staff Council Emergency meeting was called to order by Carl Hill at 2:32 PM, March 24, 2015.

New Business:

- Due to the IHL Board's announcement on Friday, March 20 to not renew Chancellor Jones' contract the Executive Council met on Monday, March 23 to draft a resolution in support of Dr. Jones.
 - o Draft Resolution read into record by Staff Council Secretary, Kristi Boggan

Floor open to discussion:

- Are the staff members of the University Medical Center part of our organization?
 - o Yes, they are represented by Robert Metzger
 - o He sent an email stating that the staff members of UMMC were 100% behind us in offering support for the Chancellor and were extremely upset when the news came.
 - o This is why they were included in the resolution.
- On the talking points, they sound exactly like everyone else's talking points. Do we have to repeat the same points or can we come up with our own.
 - o We wanted to keep it in line with what the Faculty Senate and student led organizations were doing so that we could show a steadfast unity between the different organizations. That is why we kept those bullet points and below those added the specific ones regarding staff and staff council.
- Will this be read at the rally tomorrow?
 - o We have not been asked but will be interested in doing so.
- Carl will meet with the Faculty Senate on Tuesday, March 23 to read Staff Council's resolution before they vote on their final one as well.
- Due to information released yesterday with the IHL Board, they said that they do not disagree with all of his accomplishments. Will this make a difference? Should we call for mediation between them and Dr. Jones for a real fix.
 - o We did not talk about that in our Executive meeting on Monday. The reason we stuck with these talking points is so that we could show unity on campus. So, if that is something that the council would like to add or want to explore in discussion we are completely open to it.

- One of the things discussed in the Executive Meeting, outside of calling for the reinstatement of the Chancellor, we did not want to seem like we were attacking the IHL Board or any of our representatives in Jackson. We wanted to mainly show that we were in complete support of the Chancellor and that the IHL Board was wrong and that we would like to see him reinstated.
- Do we have the power to have him reinstated?
 - o We do not have that power. Only the IHL Board has this power. We are just trying to bring this issue forward enough to gain national media coverage in order to our leaders in Jackson to make some changes. We are just showing support and then letting our leaders do what they need to do.
- Where all with this be posted or sent to?
 - o A copy is sent to the Chancellor's Office and maintained in our records. A copy will also be posted online both through social media and The DMonline.
 - o A copy will be sent to the IHL Board also.
- Is the Faculty Senate's resolution a call for immediate reversal also?
 - o Yes
- The students have worked so hard to put together this rally so far. I might say that they have been, I mean there whole attitude has been so respectful, it is not belligerent. It's not something we are trying to be ugly about. These are the facts. And they want transparency and I don't believe that we have had that.
- Currently the Executive Council is listed on this resolution. Would everyone feel comfortable with their name listed on this?
 - o Send an email to Carl to confirm your support for this resolution.
- Is this a statement or a letter because I do not know who this is going to?
 - o It is a statement that will be sent to the IHL Board as well as Commissioner Borsig and outgoing Commissioner Bounds. The purpose of it being posted in the Staff Council record is just a statement of support.
- We just want to be clear and make note that we are not trying to attack the Board. That is one of the things that we discussed in the Executive Council meeting. We wanted to be as respectful as possible even though we disagree with the IHL's decision. That is why it is just a statement supporting the Chancellor and stating why we support the Chancellor. No verbal or harsh attacks on anyone.
- The Black Student Union put out a statement addressed to "Dear Black Student Union members, Friends, and Supporters". Just FYI. That was signed by just the leaders of their organization.
- We noticed the Alumni Association had just the Board members' names.
- Has there been any update from the Governor or has he been staying out of it?
 - o Last we heard was he was staying out of it, that this was strictly an IHL decision.
- I was happy to see that the Medical Center staff was behind this. What about other people down there. Are there any statements from anyone down there?
 - o Yes, today there was someone who wrote an Op Ed piece.
- Are other schools in the state supporting this?
 - o They are just sitting back and watching.
- The students that are behind the rally for Wednesday did publish an open letter not only to the students of the 7 other institutions but the faculty and staff asking them to get on board and show their support because if it could happen here it could happen anywhere.
- No one from MASCO nor the other Staff Council presidents of the other 7 institutions has contacted us so far.

Motion to Amend any part of the resolution? No

Motion to forego the 2nd reading of the Resolution: Kelly Brown Houston

2nd: Gazel Giles

Motion to Accept the Resolution as written: Sovent Taylor
2nd: Kara Parham

Meeting Adjourned at 2:59 PM.

Minutes recorded by Kristi Boggan.