

# **University Life Committee**

January 26, 2017

Minutes

## **Members Present**

Robert Bartsch, Judy Chapmon, Keith Daniels, Nichole Eslinger, Clarke Iakovakis, Michele Kahn, Christine Kovic, Lisa Lacher, Nikki Olivas, David Rachita, Faiza Zalila, Sana Zeidan

## **Members Absent**

Rishabh Bothra, Stephen Cotten, Victoria Duffoo, Allen Hill, Bazlur Rashid

## **Alternates Present**

Ashley Green, Anthony Scaturro, Caye Trahan

## **Alternates Absent**

Snag Lu, Pat McCormack, Kristi Randolph, Rosana Salinas, Mary Ann Shallberg, Christine Walther

## **Action Item**

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Chair asked if there were any changes or corrections to the December 1, 2016 minutes. With no changes or corrections noted, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.

**Minutes approved**

## **Information/Discussion Items**

Dr. Bartsch informed the committee that B2104 will be our meeting room for the rest of our spring semester. He said that he has taken a position with the university as Director of Faculty Development, but he will continue as chair of ULC for the rest of the year.

### Check-In on Smoking Policy

Dr. Bartsch said at our March meeting we will pool all of the information that we have received from our constituents regarding our proposed smoking policy and vote. He said he has received a couple of calls from the campus newspaper and believes they will publicize an article in the near future. Dr. Bartsch said the College of Education and HSH have taken information votes. Nikki Olivas submitted a survey to PASA and has received 174 responses with most of them in favor of a smoke free campus. It was noted that University Forest Apartments are not included in this policy. However, if the smoke free policy is passed it will affect new student housing. Dr. Bartsch told the committee that it is up to each group's representative to decide how they want to gather the information and vote.

### Parental Leave

Nikki Olivas distributed a handout to the committee regarding parental leave. She reviewed with the committee some of the issues with the current policy. She is proposing that UHCL offer eligible employees up to six weeks of Parental Leave for both parents before sick and vacation time are used. Nikki noted that pregnancy is the only thing that the UH system sick leave pool prohibits the use for. Nichole Eslinger said that due to budget cuts the university is currently undergoing she does not believe the funding is there to support this proposal. She believes this is something that should roll down from the state like the rest of our benefits. Dr. Bartsch asked for clarification if sick or vacation leave must first be used. Nichole said you must use sick leave first for what is medically necessary. Anything past six to eight weeks will have to be vacation or leave without pay. She said father's get two weeks of sick leave under a normal delivery. After discussing Nikki said she would like to further investigate this issue.

### Recommendations for the University

Dr. Bartsch gave an overview of the topics this committee will be working on this semester:

- Smoking – we will vote on the proposed smoking policy at the March meeting.
- Recycle – Clarke said he spoke to Derrell Means and FMC is pricing new bins for recycling. At the end of the spring semester FMC staff will take the trashcans out of the classroom and put them next to the recycling bins in the hallways. They will do this in the Bayou building for six to twelve months and if it is a success they will do it in the other buildings as well.
- Childcare – Dr. Bartsch will create a document on childcare in case the next ULC chair would like to further explore this issue.
- Parental Leave – Ongoing
- Transportation – Ongoing

Dr. Bartsch said by the end of the semester he would like for this committee to put together a list of other recommendations (small, easy, low cost changes) for the university. For example, he said the Bayou Building maps are at least 15 years old and need to be updated. He said this committee would first discuss these ideas before bringing them to the attention of others. Dr. Bartsch said if additional information is needed he could ask someone to come and speak at our February meeting. He could get someone from the Foundations of Excellence or the COACHE Survey. After discussing the committee agreed that the SGA student representative needs to be present at our next meeting in order to get some recommendations from the students.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.