



**ASSEMBLY MEETING
October 10, 2013**

Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Sherry Phillips, President.

Roll Call: Roll was taken via sign-in. 22 representatives and 2 alternates were present for the General Assembly meeting.

Minutes Approved with a date change from August to September:

- A motion was made to approve the September 12, 2013 minutes with changes. The motion was seconded. The assembly unanimously approved the Minutes.

Sandra Abrams, Manager of Benefits came to speak to us about Open Enrollment and briefly on changes to our insurance regarding The Affordable Care Act. Open Enrollment will be from November 1-15, 2013. If one is already enrolled and no changes need to be made, then nothing is required. However, if you contribute to the Flexible Spending Account, then you will need to re-enroll.

With regard to changes in the insurance, Ms. Abrams advised that health insurance rates increased some while dental and vision rates remained the same for 2014. She stated she would rather wait and answer questions next week when the formal announcement will be made regarding the changes due to the Affordable Care Act. She advised everyone to call her office next week. There was lively discussion regarding the possible changes and questions relating to Employee +1 for single parents. She did advise that Employee +1 is looked at every year, but not feasible for UA due to trying to maintain costs for all groups involved.

She also stated that the Tobacco surcharge will not be enacted in January 2014.

More information regarding Benefits is available at: <http://hr.ua.edu/benefits/>

Announcements (Sherry Phillips):

Sherry advised

- Tobacco Strategic Committee – formulating a letter to Dr. Bonner to move toward a tobacco/smoke free campus. They are wanting a “yes” or “no” on this issue.
- Staff Resource Fair for OCT Staff members on November 12, 2013 from 11:00-2:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room (Ferguson). Steering Committee members will be on hand to answer questions regarding OCT Staff Assembly.

UA Standing Committees Report:

- Student Health: Encouraging Flu Shots
- Parking: No report

- Intercollegiate Athletics: Accolades for Student Athletes Discussed renovation of Sewell Thomas Field.
- Rec Center: Things progressing well with new REC facility that will be located in the Presidential Village Community. There was an increase in number of people attending the Aquatic Center and Rec Center.
- Faculty Staff Benefits: No report.
- Safety and Security: Discussed pedestrian, bicycle, and skateboard traffic. Skateboarding is illegal on campus; however, committee feels that nothing can be done.
- Libraries: Guest Chad Wilson with UA Construction Administration discussed Gorgas Library expansion – 40 feet out toward street in back. There will be an Honor's Plaza in this back area as well. It will be an 18 month project starting 2015. All parking behind Library will probably disappear.

OCTSA Committee Reports:

Service/Outreach Committee-

- OCT will partner with PSA on coat drive. Please encourage donations in your departments. May donate new and gently used children and adult outerwear. Drive will be 10/1/2013-12/13/2013.
- Alabama Reach will be an ongoing service project as we will continue to collect toiletry items at every OCTSA meetings. Also there will be a gift card drive with a deadline of 11/22/2013. Encourage people in your department to donate monies toward this project. There are approximately 30 students in this program.

Staff Life Committee-

- Parking Proposal still in the works. Steering Committee and Staff Life Committee met with Faculty Senate President, Steve Miller and PSA President-Elect, Amy Ratliff. Both expressed a desire to stand with OCT on this proposal and additional information is being gathered before it is presented to Ronnie Robertson, Chris D'Esposito, and Gina Johnson.

Professional Development Committee-

- Met with Teresa Faulkner regarding professional development opportunities for staff in the coming months.

Communications & Public Relations Committee-

- Previously approved Logo is now being held up because UA is changing its logo. Flyers cannot be printed until Logo is approved. We have asked University Relations to work with us on this issue. It was decided we would print flyers for Staff Resource Fair without Logo as a handout is needed for that event.

Sherry announced that OCT received a Spotlight in the *Dialog* for Service.

Meeting dismissed.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2013.