



**ASSEMBLY MEETING
September 11, 2014**

Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Dee Cook, President. Heath Nails, Previous President, had to step down. Dee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll Call: Roll was taken via sign-in. 18 representatives and 5 visitors were present for the General Assembly meeting.

Minutes Approved with no changes:

- A motion was made to approve the April 10, 2014 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded. The assembly unanimously approved the April Minutes.

Dee Cook introduced and welcomed our speakers:

Speaker: Todd Hester and Randy McCredy – Tide for Tusks

Mr. Hester and Mr. McCredy gave an informational presentation on UA's upcoming humanitarian efforts to protect wild elephants, which may eventually be extinct in Africa during our lifetime. Our speakers explained that elephant conservation should be a part of The University's mission. It's speculated that Alabamians have more elephant memorabilia than anywhere else in the US, and UA has the only college football team with an elephant as a mascot. Other universities such as LSU and Missouri have university supported humanitarian programs to help wild Tigers.

This new initiative titled Tide for Tusks will focus on educating communities, facilitating study-abroad programs, and providing research opportunities to faculty and students.

Tide for Tusks is hoping to acquire support from the OCTSA. They will be presenting their idea for approval in the near future. For now, they ask for our support and for us to spread the word to garner more interest in this cause.

A website with more information will be available in the near future.

Update on Officers:

Heath Nails has stepped down, and former President-Elect Dee Cook is now President of the assembly. A vote for the next President-Elect will take place at the next General Assembly meeting, which will require a quorum. President Dee Cook called for nominations for the next President-Elect, but none were suggested. It was agreed that nominations for this position will be emailed to Dee before the October meeting.

Introduction of Visitors:

We had five visitors: Osielia Lewis from Veteran & Military Affairs, Christina Horen from Nursing, Kristen Cardwell from Student Life, Kimberly Dailey from the College of Community Health Sciences, and Jan Moyer from the College of Business Administration – MGT.

New Business:

Possible Speakers for 2014-2015 - **Dee** opened the floor for suggestions for possible speakers for the upcoming year. It was suggested that Jameka Hartley from Alabama REACH would be a good speaker, since the OCTSA is interested in continuing to support Alabama REACH as a service project. Other suggestions for speakers can be emailed to Dee Cook.

Service Projects for 2014-2015 – **Dee** led the discussion on possible service projects, reminding the assembly that we will need to have at least one university project and one community project. Last year the OCTSA participated in providing gift cards for Alabama REACH and the Coat Drive with donates to Temporary Emergency Services in Tuscaloosa. Feedback from the assembly showed that members enjoyed the projects chosen last year, especially the healthy competition with the Coat Drive against the Professional Staff Assembly. It was agreed that both organizations would be acceptable projects for community and university service. A request was given for more information regarding Alabama REACH’s pantry for students. Dee agreed to contact the organization and email more information to the assembly.

Role of Committees – **Dee** reminded the assembly of the roles of OCTSA representatives on UA Standing Committees and OCTSA Committees. There were several openings for representatives on the UA Standing Committees, and we had a few volunteers. A conclusive list of all the OCTSA representatives on UA Standing Committees will be provided once all decisions have been made.

UA Standing Committees Report:

- Committee on University Committees: No report
- Campus Master Plan: No report
- Equal Opportunity: No report
- Faculty and Staff Benefit:
- Information Technology: No report
- Intercollegiate Athletics: **Dianne Gilbert** reported that the committee met earlier that week to discuss Sarah Patterson’s new role, construction interference with game day parking, and the new policy on a smoke-free Stadium.
- International Education: No report
- Libraries: No report
- Parking: No report
- Professional Staff Assembly: No report
- Rec Center: No report
- Safety and Security: No report
- Student and Campus Life: No report
- Student Health Community: **Sherry Phillips** reported that the committee has not met since April. The committee is down one physician, and they are trying to get that spot

filled. Committee hopes to discuss new policies on e-cigarettes. Sherry reminded everyone of the free flu shots which will be given on campus during the month of September.

- Undergraduate Programs: No report

OCTSA Committee Reports:

Staff Life Committee-

- Dee gave an overview of the role of the Staff Life Committee, which is to advocate for salary, benefits, parking, health, personal, etc. interests for non-exempt employees.
- Committee is still working on idea to provide more opportunities for \$5 meals/meal plans for staff.

Communications & Public Relations Committee-

- No report

Professional Development Committee-

- No report

Service/Outreach Committee-

- No report

Ad Hoc Committee

- No report

Steering Committee

- Dee reminded the assembly that other OCTSA Committees meet to be a voice for suggestions, and the committee chairs bring these ideas to Steering Committee to be brought up during the General Assembly.
- Will meet again before the next General Assembly.

Call for New Business- No

Call for Old Business- No

Dee thanked everyone for attending meeting today, and she asked for visitors interested in becoming new members to please speak to Lacey Nisbett before leaving.

Meeting dismissed.

Next Meeting: 10/9/14