



Minutes
A&P Assembly Meeting
Office of Information Technology Building Room 103
Wednesday, October 12th, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.

Call to Order: 3:01 P.M.

I. Roll Call:

Present: Brooke Patton, John Heck, Joy Vrbka, Amanda Malone, Bre Aunna McKenzie, Claire Wilson, Tim Blackmon, Mark Bransby, Shelly Nemeroff, Steve Glennon, Mike Stover, Robert Kulick, Stephen Gulley, Paula Davis, Angela Chandler, Jeanie Harry, Robert Holm, Tyler Adams, Katie Lee, Lawrence Hamberlin, Timothy Jones, Vick Walker

Absent: Josh Conradson, Laurie Newton

II. Approval of Minutes from the September meeting

- a. A correction to the spelling of Brooke Patton and Kelli Shomaker's names was noted.
- b. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Bransby and seconded by Mr. Stover. The motion passed on a voice vote

III. Speakers

- a. Jim O'Conner – Chief Information Officer, Information Technology
 - Jim is the new CIO and comes from Georgia Tech. with 22 years of experience there with the last six being VP of Information Technology and CIO. Before his time at Tech. he served 20 years as an officer in the Air Force which included being a division chief at the Airforce Institute of Technology.
 - Jim pointed out that we have a lot going on at Auburn in a time where tremendous changes are occurring throughout higher education. For example, the MOOC (Massive Open Online Class) craze of a few years ago has proved to be a bust.
 - IT's role in supporting the academic enterprise and the research enterprise is experiencing a lot of change.
 - Institutions are reaching out across the country and across the globe to develop partnerships and IT has to support that, which is more complicated.
 - For the next couple of months, he is going to be asking questions and listening.

- He wants this to be an opportunity for topics that may have been in the background to have a platform to be brought forward for consideration, debate and exploration.
- His hope is that OIT becomes more part of the community rather than the IT guys in that building on Lem Morrison. So we will be volunteering for things.
- He specifically pointed out the issues higher ed. is facing regarding diversity, Title IX, and supporting students and safe environments and he acknowledges that IT has a role to play in how we choose to address those issues.
- He stressed that his door is always open to anyone.
- His first main goal is to balance privacy, security and service delivery.
- Project management and quality assurance are going to be new initiatives moving forward. Not only for OIT, but for the campus.

b. Jennifer Lolley – Outreach Administrator, Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

- Jennifer is the primary outreach person at the Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve & Nature Center, located on the right (as you travel towards Hwy. 280) just past the Shell Fisheries Station (left) on South College Street between East University Drive/Shug-Jordan Parkway and Hwy. 280
- The video at <https://youtu.be/MU7bI06ltMk> was shared, which gave everyone a basic introduction to the preserve.
- Jennifer is the only full-time employee at the preserve, so volunteers needed.
- The Preserve is 4 miles from campus and is comprised of roughly 120 acres with about 6 miles of trails.
- Most of the labor is provided by volunteering Auburn students. The main task that they accomplish is trail maintenance and repair.
- The main goal of the preserve is environmental education and they often partner with similar organizations such as the Southeaster Raptor Center to achieve this common purpose.
- One of the main focuses is to encourage children, who on average spend less than 1% of their day outdoors (compare that to 27% on multimedia), to explore nature and learn about it. To the point that they have about 5,000 school children visiting each year. They have even managed to get a competitive faculty outreach grant that will allow them to bring in 1,200 students from low-income schools (This pays for buses etc.). As part of the grant they are trying to assess if they can change how the students feel about nature during their three hour visit.
- The preserve also serves as a venue for events, so consider having a departmental social (or meeting) out there.
- It is important to note that the preserve is soft-funded, so it does charge for programs, school visits and events, but if you just want to walk on the trails or play on the natural playground, that is free and unlimited.
- Jennifer also introduced us to their corn snake / red rat snake (climbs trees well) which is one of 20 resident reptiles that they incorporate into their programs. She mentioned

that she often gets calls to remove critters from urban dwellings and is mostly happy to oblige.

- In the spring they are adding an alligator enclosure to house small alligators that will be traded out for new small alligators when they get too big.
- The best way for A&P employees to help is to organize a group to help on the weekend, or become a member. You can also give during Faculty/Staff Campaign.
- Note: Pet dogs are not allowed.

IV. Comments from Chair

- a. New members on standing committees
 - As was true last year, we had more nominees than available spaces. Which is a wonderful 'problem' to have.
- b. FLSA Changes
 - October 30: New FLSA designations effective at Auburn University
 - October 31: The final monthly paycheck received for pay period October 1 through October 29
 - November 18: The first biweekly paycheck received for pay period October 30 through November 12
 - HR has been doing a great job to handle the transition, but if you think you are impacted and have not received a packet of individualized information about how the change will affect you, please reach out to Mr. Jones.
 - If you feel that your position's classification deserves a review, please wait until after the swap. There will be a process for appealing the change.
 - A&P leadership is waiting for the dust to settle before making any changes to A&P structure, policies and procedures. The only legal change required is the one that HR is making. A&P and Staff Council are starting to look at options for re-drawing the designation of employees using criteria other than exemption status. Our hope is to have it ironed out by the next election cycle in late spring.
- c. Nominations for standing committees close on September 16th. Please nominate yourself or others (with their approval)
- d. HRD Classes (available in AU Access → Employee → FastTrain)
 - i. LD-750 Applying Psychology to Leadership – October 4th
- e. OIT Open forum on spam filtering tomorrow, September 15th OIT Building Room 103

V. Executive Committee Report

- a. The executive committee is going to be focusing on reviewing our policies and procedures and documenting them in a Standard Operations Policies. If you've been part of handling a non-documented situation, let us know the details so that we can codify how it should be handled. Because, inevitably, it will happen again.

- b. If you have ideas for A&P meeting locations, contact Mr. Hamberlin

VI. New Business

- a. Open enrollment for benefits runs November 1-31. Originally had actually arranged for the HR benefits staff to present at this meeting, but for the first time in years, Dr. Large and President Gouge weighed in on the conversation causing all the details to not be finalized in time for this meeting. So they were unable to present this time around. And next time will be too late. Based on the information we have, there are no big changes from last year.
- b. November 16 7 AM -6 PM will be the benefits fair at the wellness center
- c. Please take advantage of the HR announcements regarding visits from retirement specialists (and medical insurance representatives) from the university approved companies. These are great opportunities to obtain guidance for your financial future and individual medical insurance queries.

VII. Open Forum

- a. Mr. Bransby asked if anyone had heard any substantial rumblings of the Retirement System of Alabama moving from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan.
- b. Members mentioned that from time to time the topic comes up, but that there had been no official word that it was truly up for consideration.

Adjourn: 4:20 P.M.