

COSA MINUTES

February 10, 2000

Presiding Chair: Debi Parkhill

Members present: Debi Parkhill, Sandra Denson, Holly Decker, Nina Windham, Pat Rozier, John Anderson, Sammy Dees, Scott Doner, Ann Farmer, Ann Harris, Debra Holley, Ann Lacey, Shirley McClain, Tom Parnell, Ruth Salter, Beverly Sharpe, Hilda Spell, Tim Yorkey, and Inman Grimsley.

Members excused: T.R. " Cat " Decker

Guests Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, Dr. Ari Santas, Ann Sutton, Judy Griffin, Joanne Bass, Jim Dutton, Neal Culbreth, Myrtice Zorn, Margaret Powers, Melinda Cutchens, Linda Gooden, Jim Warren, Cindy Cobb, Beth Lancaster, Grady P. Everett, Sheldon Broomberg, Georgia Heruska, Shirley Townsend, Bill Filtz, Charlene L. Butler, Andrea Butler, and Sage Archer.

The COSA meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Special Order of the Day:

Dr. Hugh C. Bailey came to COSA to address a few of the concerns that the staff had concerning the new insurance issue. He had just returned from a SAC meeting in Texas and wasn't sure how much more he could tell us that wasn't already out in the memo he sent out campus wide. He said that there was no villain here, no one to blame. He said that he hopes the Governor will help out the plan we have now, but something has to be done so it doesn't happen again. The University System has been given mandates by the Governor's office OPB and the new Department of Community Health, a new office developed by the Governor that is headed by Russ Toal to remedy this situation. Several things have been done. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is the administrator of our health plan now. There has been the feeling that Blue Cross/Blue Shield hasn't been sufficient zealous in getting the best terms possible. So people have been sent to hospitals all over the state to gather information. When the hospital billed Blue Cross/Blue Shield they simply paid it. There was not an established contract with the hospitals and doctors, which meant they were paying whatever was charged. But in those same communities the hospitals had agreements with local businesses and industrials and found that they were getting their services 20 to 30 per cent cheaper than the state. So the Department of Community Health has taken steps to negotiate contracts with 262 hospitals across the state which should decrease the cost of hospital services for our employees which will save millions of dollars. It should have been done a long time ago. There will probably be a new carrier for our program sometime very soon. We have a lot of people working very hard to try to meet our needs. We realize that for a lot of our entry-level employees the insurance is a very important issue. What we will probably emerge with is a system where you will have a statewide Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) available. The coverage will probably approximate what we have now and the cost to you may be similar or a little higher from what you are now paying. However if you elect to stay with the plan we have now it could cost anywhere between 50 to 100 per cent more than it does now. We aren't sure whether

change takes place. We still have a lot of questions without answers and as soon as we know the terms you will know it. As to the raises this year we have heard that we may get a 3 % raise effective October 1,

into a few problems. The bins were placed in the hallways where they got contaminated with other items. When the custodial staff went to pick up the bins there was nothing in them. Either no one was recycling or the night custodial staff may have accidentally threw it away, especially if the containers were mixed or contaminated. Our solution was to take the bins out of the hallways and start recycling in the offices, desk side, getting someone designated in the offices as the individual who is accountable for the process, and putting the materials under lock and key. And prior to this restructuring, there was no paper delivered to the City. We do not want to dissolve our agreement with the City because of this set back. We need all the help that we can get to make this program work, so anyone who has any ideas, needs recycling picked up, or sees someone throwing away recycling please contact me, Ari Santas # 7433 or email [HYPERLINK mailto:asantas@valdosta.edu](mailto:asantas@valdosta.edu) asantas@valdosta.edu . Call Lisa Hayes # 6364 for collection of the recycling.

Salary Study- Debi Parkhill reported that she had received some inquiries concerning the status of the Salary Study. She directed the individuals to refer to the October meeting minutes on the COSA 's web page. In the October meeting, Debi stated that due to the deficit of 2.4 million it was impractical to pursue