

Staff Senate Meeting
November 28, 2006
M-218

The meeting came to order at 12:09 with a moment of silence to remember Jan Bell Heleski, long-time staff member and former Staff Senate chair, who died of cancer on Nov. 22. Staff Senate will contribute to Gilda's Club in Jan's memory. Contact Brian Raymond, Joyce McKissen, or Cathy or Mary in the Library if you wish to contribute. The Senate will also contribute some of its funds.

The September minutes were approved as submitted.

Social Committee/Outreach Report Marilyn Hotaling displayed a poster that will go up by the Giving Tree in the Buehl atrium. There are still tags on the tree if anyone can take another. December 8th is the date for gift turn-in and Christmas treats in the atrium, from noon-1:30. Marilyn will ask Louise to send out another reminder.

Recycling Marilyn displayed an eye-catching poster designed by Rachel Cronover of the President's Office to encourage recycling. One will go in each building. In response to a question about more of the small blue paper receptacles, Marilyn said no more will be purchased. She suggests each department use a cardboard box for emptying the small blue holders.

There followed a social break for seasonal pies, ice cream and cider.

Speakers

Joyce Munro is now director of the LTU Writing Proficiency Program. Since 2005, LTU has required passage of a writing proficiency exam as a graduation requirement. The test is given to juniors who should already have completed some English classes but will have time to make up skills if they fail to pass the test.

There are several opportunities for students to prepare for the exam:

- Three-hour workshops held the third Friday of every month except December. This is to help with common writing problems, especially perfectionism which makes people freeze, and lack of organization
- A one-hour workshop on the Tuesday before the exam to explain just what to expect.
- For students who fail to pass twice, there is a mandatory class, COM 3102, Writing Workshop.

Joyce is looking for ways to encourage spontaneous writing. She has an informal and social "writing practice" every Thursday from 4:30-5:30 at Café Lawrence which is open to the whole campus community. "Writing Practice" uses timed freewriting and other exercises to help writers learn to relax and write more fluently. It's not a class but an opportunity to practice writing in a supportive, social environment. Participants may share their writing with each other, but sharing is strictly voluntary. Joyce would like to attract more staff. Most at the meeting felt that lunchtime would be the best time to try.

Also suggested was some form of participation electronically, but privacy would have to be ensured.

Solar Decathlon Team Student Christina (Tina) Span assisted by Elliot Schmidt presented the exciting project. LTU is one of only 20 schools invited to the competition. LTU has a proud tradition of winning what they enter, so the students are working hard for another win.

The goal is to build a self-contained 800-square-foot home which runs entirely on solar power and generates enough surplus power to run an electric car. The appliances selected for the home must run on the power generated, and it must produce enough hot water for two showers a day.

Each home will be disassembled and rebuilt on the Mall in Washington DC in September 2007. The houses remain up a week and judges rate them in ten categories, with architectural livability the most heavily weighted. The LTU team has creative ideas for space flow, illusion of larger spaces, and storage to meet this criteria. They have named their project Aloe Terra.

Total project cost is estimated at \$500,000, which includes the cost of housing the team in D.C. for three weeks. The students are asking for donations to the Staff and Faculty Campaign to be partially designated to the Solar Decathlon Team.

Learn more on their website: solar.ltu.edu

Staff Member of the Month

Marshall Jackson and Linda Ridella honored **Janail Chatman** of the Registrar's Office as the September and **Sadar Eren** of the Help Desk as the October staff members of the month.

Joyce McKissen read the names of 7 new staff members and presented a gift to Yi Feng, from Natural Sciences, who was present.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. There will be no December meeting. The Giving Tree event will take its place.