



February 24, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Senators Present: Angela Haynie, Angela Jackson, Ashley Isom, Audreka Peten, Carlos Herrera, Deloise Mowdy, Dierre Littleton, Elizabeth Gayfield, Garth Clayborn, Gunnar Bartlett, Henry Smiley, Jason Cole, Julia Robison, Kimberly Klotz, Kristin Jetts, Kyana Smith, Lynetta Morris, Maree Herring, Michael Hopper, Melanie Watson, Nadia Eslinger, Paul Dielmann, Richard Hammond, Steven Shook, Susan Peterson, Tomas McDaniel, Gunnar Bartlett

Senators Absent: Hunter Roberts, Jason Davis, Jennifer Day, Natalie Shock, Shad Foley, Shelby Fiegel, Taylor Ingram,

I. Call to Order

- A. President Shook called the Staff Senate to order at 10:01 a.m. on Zoom.

II. Approval of February 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- A. The minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting were reviewed via email and approved electronically.

III. Officer Reports

- A. President, Steven Shook

1. [COVID-19](#)
2. On Monday, March 1st, President Shook and President Talbot will be hosting another Questions, Coffee, and Conversation event. Everyone is welcome to attend!
3. Last meeting we talked about the possibility of meeting with some State Representatives and/or Senators. This will be a collaborative effort

between us, Faculty Senate, and SGA. More information will be made available at a later date.

4. The employee appreciation luncheon will be on Monday, March 1st. If you are interested in helping, please contact President Shook.

B. Vice President, Nadia Eslinger

1. The Staff Senate virtual meet & greet will be next Wednesday, March 3rd, from 11am -1pm.
2. Nominations for Staff Senate will open on Monday, March 1st. An email will be sent out later with a link to the nominations. If you are not sure if your term is expiring or if you are in an “at large” position, please contact Vice President Eslinger.

C. Treasurer, Carlos Herrera

1. Treasurer Herrera has been working on the reimbursements from Professional Development and they have been sent to Accounts Payable.

D. Secretary, Ashley Isom

1. No report.

E. Parliamentarian/Historian, Elizabeth Gayfield

1. No report.

F. Ex Officio, Kimberly Klotz

1. No report.

IV. Senate Committee Report/Highlights

- A. Courtesy Committee: Senator Peterson sent out several cards during the snowstorm to various people on campus and in our community.
- B. Reynolds Committee: The shows for last week were cancelled due to the snow, but are rescheduled for April 24. There are no shows in the month of March and there will be four shows to volunteer for in April.

V. University Committee Reports

- A. Calendar Committee: Their meeting was cancelled due to the snow but, Faculty Senate President-Elect Amber Wilson reached out to us to see if we would like more representation for staff on the committee. There is currently one staff

member on the Calendar Committee, but next week there will be a vote to add a second staff member.

- B. Academic Integrity Committee: The committee met and voted on a student appeal.
- C. Employee Service Awards Committee: The committee met and talked about the possibility of moving the announcement of the award to the day of Convocation. The hope is that if they move the award announcement then more staff will come to the event. However, with keeping social distancing in mind there has also been a discussion about live streaming the event and having it recorded so that people can watch it at a later time. They will meet again next week to discuss these possibilities further.
- D. Diversity Committee: The committee met and went over the responses to the Campus Climate Survey that was sent out. They did have more people participate than usual, but they would still like more input. There has been talk about hosting a raffle or like event to drum up higher rates of participation.

VI. Campus Q&A

- A. Senator Herring: If a staff member has side effects from the COVID-19 vaccination do they have to use their own time, or can they use the COVID sick leave?
 - 1. If a person develops side effects they have to use their own time. COVID sick leave can only be used if a person has COVID, has been exposed to COVID, or is currently in quarantine.

VII. Constituent Concerns

- A. Senator Bartlett: There is a rumor going around that there is a roundabout being put in at the corner of Donaghey and Bruce. This rumor is not true. There will be no roundabout going in at the corner of Donaghey and Bruce.
- B. If you develop symptoms after getting the second vaccine can you use COVID sick leave, or do you use regular sick leave?
 - 1. You will have to use regular sick time if you develop any symptoms. COVID sick leave can only be used if you have COVID, quarantining, or if you are waiting on test results.
- C. There has been talk about a potential raise. Is there any additional information on the possibility of this happening?

1. During the Campus Talk there was the mention of a possible 2% COLA at the start of the next fiscal year. This is not a done deal and is very dependent on our financial situation.
- D. Right now we are waiving the volunteer commitment for people who have applied for Professional Development because of the pandemic. The question is, how long do we plan to keep it this way? As of right now, the volunteer requirement will be waived as long as Senator Littleton is chairing the committee. Once his term has ended then that decision will be up to the new chair. A question was posed about how far back are we waiving the volunteer hours; just this semester, last fall, last spring? The committee will need to reconvene to answer this question.

VIII. Old Business

- A. None.

IX. New Business

- A. The employee appreciation luncheon is next week and there are more people than what was initially anticipated. Treasurer Herrera motioned that we increase our funding for the employee appreciation on March 1st by up to \$150.
1. Senator Littleton seconded the motion.
 2. Staff Senate voted on the motion and the motion carried.

X. Good and Welfare

- A. Senator Jackson did a marvelous job with her Black History Month presentation!
- B. Maria Negrete Padron is hosting a Paint Your Heritage Program tomorrow! Please reach out to her if you would like to participate.
- C. Senator Peterson's daughter has started working in the College of Education. They are very glad to have her!
- D. The second part of the book club that is reading "*This Book is Antiracist*" will be meeting at lunch today via Zoom. Feel free to join us!

XI. Adjournment

- A. Vice President Eslinger motioned to adjourn. Senator Littleton seconded. Motion carried.