



June 9, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Senators Present: Angela Jackson, Ashley Isom, Audreka Peten, Carlos Herrera, Deloise Mowdy, Elizabeth Gayfield, Garth Clayborn, Jason Cole, Jennifer Day, Julia Robison, Kristin Jetts, Kyana Smith, Lynetta Morris, Michael Hopper, Melanie Watson, Nadia Eslinger, Natalie Shock, Richard Hammond, Shelby Fiegel, Susan Peterson, Taylor Ingram, Thomas McDaniel

Senators Absent: Angela Haynie, Gunnar Bartlett, Henry Smiley, Hunter Roberts, Jason Davis, Kimberly Klotz, Maree Herring, Paul Dielmann, Shad Foley, Steven Shook

I. Call to Order

- A. Vice President Eslinger called the meeting to order at 10:02

II. Approval of May 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- A. The minutes from the May 26th, 2021 meeting were reviewed via email and approved electronically.

III. Officer Reports

- A. President, Steven Shook

- 1. Absent

- A. Vice-President, Nadia Eslinger

- 1. As campus slowly returns back to normal, masks will be expected for anyone on campus who is not fully vaccinated through July 29th. If constituents have any questions or concerns about this process, please bring them to Staff Senate or the Executive Committee.
 - 2. Student Health has administered over 1200 vaccinations!

3. The Democrat-Gazette did a story on colleges in Arkansas, and UCA administered more vaccinations than any other state school, excluding medical schools.
4. Don't forget to register for the Staff & Faculty Appreciation Conference on June 29th. Participants will receive a free book and lunch! Please talk to your constituents about attending this [event](#).
5. Our Staff Senate retreat is scheduled for June 30th in the McCastlain Ballroom. New and returning Senators will meet from 10:00 - 12:00, then Senators who are rolling off will join from 12:00-1:00 from lunch and awards. We will be doing StrengthsQuest for Senators this upcoming year. If you have not completed Strengths Quests in the past year, please do so before the retreat. President Shook will be sending out codes soon. We will have some breakout sessions during the retreat to brainstorm about action items that we can focus on in the upcoming year.

B. Treasurer, Carlos Herrera

1. Treasurer Herrera has ordered the Staff Senate polos for new senators.
2. Name tags are being done, and we should have them by the end of next week.
3. The binder information has been sent to Conway Copies, they should be ready in a week or so.
4. All Professional Development reimbursements have been completed. This year, the committee assisted 26 people and funded roughly \$13,000 for training, webinars, and conferences.
5. There have been three surveys sent out the Senators need to complete.
 - a) The Wellness survey - Future items that we might be able to get for employees
 - b) Senator Awards survey - Needs to be done by June 18 so we can get these done for Retreat
 - c) Committee Inquiry survey - Needs to be done by June 25 so we can try and get committees assigned by Retreat
6. Food has been ordered for the upcoming retreat! We will be having fajitas, and an inquiry about dietary restrictions will be sent out soon.

C. Secretary, Ashley Isom

1. No report.

D. Parliamentarian/Historian, Elizabeth Gayfield

1. No report.
- E. Ex Officio, Kimberly Klotz
1. Absent.

IV. Senate Committee Report/Highlights

- A. Courtesy Committee: Fours cards are being or have been sent out. If anyone needs a card sent out, please contact Senator Peterson.
- B. Scholarship Committee: The Staff Senate Employee Scholarship received 13 applications and \$550 each was awarded to Shalia Delph and Morgan Drayton. The Staff Senate Scholarship for Dependents received 15 applications and \$500 each was awarded to Lewis Jeffrey, Cole Vangsnes, and Olice Cash. The Lily Harmon Staff Senate Scholarship received 12 applications with \$400 awarded to Gabrielle Neafsey Wroten. \$3,000 was awarded for the next academic year.
- C. Employee Recognition Committee: The committee has awarded the Quarter 3 winners and will be opening nominations for Quarter 4 today. Nominations for Employee of the Year will be open until June 30th. [Nominate someone today!](#)
- D. Professional Development Committee: Applications for Quarter 1 have been awarded. Quarter 2 applications will be opened on a later day.
- E. Emergency Fund: Four applications have been submitted this year with three of them receiving \$500 each. This leaves us with \$3554 left in the account for the upcoming year.
- F. Compensation Committee: The committee has met with Associate Vice President of Human Resources, Britni Elder, to give her an overview of the committee. There have been some recent [bills](#) that have passed through the Arkansas Senate that could affect our constituents. More information will be provided at a later date.

V. University Committee Reports

- A. ITAC Committee: A new Blackboard tool, Blackboard Ally, will be going live for the fall semester. Training for the tool will begin on June 14th.
- B. Veteran's Day Committee: The committee has narrowed down the event date to November 11th, but they are still in the works of getting everything set up.

VI. Campus Q&A

- A. None.

VII. Constituent Concerns

- A. A constituent has reached out to say that the crosswalk at the intersection of Western and Bruce is not registering pedestrians. This crosswalk uses a censor to register when people need to cross. This issue will be forwarded through the proper channels.
- B. Parking behind the new Integrated Health Sciences building has been set up for clinic clients. There are currently 30 spots for clients. There are some concerns that the clinic will not require that many spots; Staff Senate will be watching to see if we need to possibly reallocate some of those parking spaces.
- C. Since the Welcome Center has been moved to Donaghey, constituents have asked that the admissions parking spaces in the parking lot in front of Schichtl become staff/faculty parking spaces. Is this a possibility?
- D. Is there a chance that wearing jeans will become normal throughout the year? So far, we believe it is only for the summer but we will double-check.
- E. A few constituents asked if the Senate has received an update about whether or not dependents will be able to get a discount on graduate school. The Employee Benefits Advisory Committee has discussed it, but they are still doing a cost-benefit analysis. EBAC will then bring their findings to the Office of the President.
- F. Constituents have asked about an incentive program regarding the vaccine. The university is not providing any cash incentives, but BeWell is trying to work on some initiatives. Currently, UAPB is participating in the White House College Vaccination Challenge. We are going to look into the program to see if we should also be participating in the program.
- G. Several constituents have asked about salary compression and pay inequities. The Board of Trustees have met since our last meeting and has approved a 2% COLA that will be effective starting July 1st. Britni Elder has also been sent a list of questions through the Compensation Committee regarding Senate Bill 345.

VIII. Old Business

- A. President Shook sent Senator Fiegel the alternative work policy that the [University of Arkansas](#) is following. That university is currently allowing staff and faculty to work remotely part of the time pending their supervisor's approval. Senator Fiegel asks that the issue be brought up in the next Executive Board's meeting with the President.

IX. New Business

- A. None.

X. Good and Welfare

- A. The Office of Student Success and the Advising Office has been using Grades First, but are upgrading to Navigate. They have been working on this initiative for years and are very excited about its implementation. The program should go live in August. If you do any work with students this program will be a great tool to utilize.
- B. The new Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Robin M. Williamson will start on June 14th! We are excited to have her join our university!
- C. Senator Shock shared many great things that are happening in UCA athletics!
 - 1. We won the Southland Conference Academic Award! This award goes to the school with the best overall academic metrics
 - 2. Will Siler - Football - won the F.L. McDonald postgraduate scholarship (\$5,000). He graduated in May with a 4.0 GPA and has been accepted into medical school at UAMS.
 - 3. Jenna Wildeman - Softball - won Southland Softball Student-Athlete of the Year, Freshman of the Year, and led the nation in stolen bases.
 - 4. Tyler Cleveland - Baseball - won Relief Pitcher of the Year, made the Freshman All-American team, & made 3rd team All-American (team that includes all classifications, not just freshman).
 - 5. Zachary Jewell - Men's Track - is competing today in the 100m dash at the NCAA Division I Outdoor Nationals. Only 2nd track athlete to ever qualify for NCAA Division I Outdoor Nationals.
 - 6. Robert Rochelle - Football - was the 130th pick in the NFL draft, the highest pick UCA has ever had, picked by the Los Angeles Rams, signed his rookie contract a couple of weeks ago.

XI. Adjournment

- A. Senator Hammond motioned to adjourn. Senator Peterson seconded. Motion carried.