



July 14, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Senators Present: Alison Taylor, Angela Jackson, Angela Polk, Ashley Isom, Audreka Peten, Carlos Herrera, Christy Dade, Courtney Bryant, Elizabeth Gayfield, Jason Cole, Jason, Davis, Jennifer Day, Jennifer Rudd, Kim Klotz, Kristin Jetts, Kyana Smith, Lynetta Morris, Melanie Watson, Nadia Eslinger, Richard Hammond, Shad Foley, Steven Shook, Taylor Ingram, Tina Wells

Senators Absent: Garth Clayborn, Hunter Roberts, Julia Robison, Maree Herring, Natalie Shock, Susan Peterson, Thomas McDaniel, Veneta Fricks

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of June 9th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- A. The minutes from the June 9th, 2021 meeting were reviewed via email and approved electronically.

III. Guest Speaker: President Davis

- A. First off, thank you all for working so hard during the past 15 months. We have had so many people step up and work hard for our university. We know that people have been stretched thinner than they have ever been stretched before. We know that we still have a few more years of work before we can recover fully from the pandemic, but we now have much more information than we did when the pandemic started. And thank you to Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and Student Government Association for all that they have done during this time.
- B. Since we started our COVID-19 protocols, we have administered over 15,600 PRC tests. This has allowed us to support our campus and get tests back in a timely

manner. It looks like the state will continue to help support the cost of testing for the fall semester. We will continue testing with Conway Regional and the other universities in town. This support has allowed us to keep the campus in the condition that it has been in. We will continue this track of testing and contact tracing until we feel confident that the pandemic is over. We do feel more confident this year because of the vaccine availability, but we are limited in what we can mandate when it comes to masks and vaccine requirements. If and when a booster shot is recommended by the FDA, UCA Student Health will be able to provide those. We will continue to provide resources to the campus to ensure that we stay headed in the right direction. We are so blessed to have Dr. Randy Pastor and his team on campus. Please thank them when you have the opportunity.

1. Question: How are we looking as far as enrollment?

- a) We are feeling good about our freshmen enrollment numbers. They should be close to our fall 2019 enrollment numbers. Our graduate school incoming numbers are way up this year, which we expected in this economy. As far as our returning students, we should know more around Labor Day but they still look good. We have budgeted well and we have made preparations for any trouble that may arise. We are continuing our ROI because we want to be in a position where we do not live and die on enrollment numbers.

2. Question: Will we be operating at full capacity in August even with the Delta variant on the rise?

- a) Yes. We know that the majority of people who are affected by the Delta Variant are those who are unvaccinated. We will be offering vaccine clinics in the fall for individuals who want to be vaccinated. We are also looking into the prospect of doing a vaccine incentive. We do not want to trivialize the vaccine in any way, but we want to work on something that will encourage people to get vaccinated.

3. With students coming back in the fall, will there be any social initiatives to help get them back into the swing of things after being out for a year?

- a) In many ways, we will have two freshman classes. We will be working on new ways to reach these students, but we will also be searching for ways to reach out to all of our students. We know that a lot of students did not have a great year last year, so we want

to make sure that these students get to have a wonderful year this year.

4. Will RSO's be able to travel and stuff this upcoming year?

- a) Yes, but with a few precautions. There will be fewer restrictions, but it will not be as free as it was in fall 2019. We are still able to require masks to be worn during travel.

5. Do we still have COVID leave?

- a) We no longer have COVID leave. We know that people are juggling a lot, so supervisors are expected to be flexible and work with their staff. Employees can use their accrued leave, but supervisors are expected to work with their employees as much as they can.

IV. Officer Reports

A. President, Nadia Eslinger

1. The Pandemic Planning Committee had a meeting on Monday and will start meeting again weekly. They are currently studying the variants and planning around them. A COVID booster should be coming soon and boosters will be available on campus. President Davis, with approval from Gov. Hutchinson, has authorized a one-time \$200.00 incentive to all employees who have been voluntarily vaccinated. The incentive is taxable and is available to all employees except student workers and graduate assistants. An email with more information has been sent out across campus with more details about the submission process. You can find that form [here](#).
2. If you have a sick child or have to quarantine, you will no longer be able to use COVID leave. Supervisors are supposed to be flexible and work with employees. If supervisors are not being flexible, employees should follow the chain of command.
3. Staff Senate Presidents across the state met yesterday and UCA seems to be ahead of the curve in regards to how we are being supported. We are the only ones who are receiving a cost of living adjustment and vaccine incentives.
4. Commencement will be held on August 7th. Volunteers are still needed and we will be resending an email for volunteers. Find the [link here!](#)
5. The official Staff Senate pictures will be on July 28th. Please wear your senate polo! Our meeting will be in the Student Center that day. Also, we

want everyone in the senate to have their picture on the website. We are working with Seth to set up times to have senator photos taken.

A. Vice-President, Carlos Herrera

1. Polos are available as well as binder materials for senators.
2. We somehow lost a senator for Finance and Administration representation so we have moved Lynetta Morris from C103-105 to cover that position since she was At-Large. If we lose any other senator in the future, Senator Jetts will be moved into that position since she is At-Large.
 - a. We are utilizing these positions since there is currently overrepresentation in C103-105 and C106-109, per the by-laws.
3. We need volunteers to join the Staff Grants Committee: Senator Day, Senator Smith, and Senator Gayfield volunteered for the committee.

B. Treasurer, Kristin Jetts

1. No report.

C. Secretary, Garth Clayborn

1. Absent.

D. Parliamentarian/Historian, Melanie Straw-Watson

1. No report.

E. Ex Officio, Steven Shook

1. No report.

v. Senate Committee Report/Highlights

- A. Courtesy Committee: Three cards have been sent out, with additional cards being sent out shortly. If you have any cards that need to be sent out, please contact Senator Polk.

vi. University Committee Reports

- A. No reports.

vii. Campus Q&A

- A. Convocation will take place on August 18th from 9:00 - 11:00 at Reynolds Auditorium.
- B. There is a pavilion being constructed in front of Christian Cafeteria.

VIII. Constituent Concerns

- A. Treasurer Jetts: We had someone bring up the Admin Portal Website and possibly enacting a rating system for offices across the campus. They wanted to see if that is something that we want to take on. The senators discussed the possibility of doing a feedback form on each individual website instead of a ranking system. Treasurer Jetts will take back the suggestions.
- B. The Executive Committee received a concern about our carbon footprint and how we can be a more sustainable campus. That person has been linked up with the SEED committee and they will be working with that committee.
- C. The Executive Committee received a question about leaving early the day before the 4th of July that asked why everyone was not allowed to leave early. The President did not announce that the campus would be dismissed early. This appears to be a supervisory thing and was specific to each office.
- D. If a person or their child contracts COVID, will they be eligible for CAT leave? We will find out and provide more information.
- E. Should exterior restroom doors be left open or closed? The exterior doors had been kept open to prevent as much surface contact as possible. President Eslinger will find out in her next Pandemic Planning meeting.

IX. Old Business

- A. None.

X. New Business

- A. Bylaws Revision Committee: We realized that there might be some changes in our senate numbers for each category since there are new position classifications this fiscal year. If you want to serve on the Bylaws Revision Committee, contact Treasurer Watson.
- B. The Staff Senate picture will be taken next meeting. Please, wear your polos for our next meeting! And in general, please wear your polos on meeting days so that we can be more visible across campus.

- C. The balance ball chairs were available and have already been claimed. There is a wait list and those who get the chairs but then decide that they don't want them will have their chairs given to those on the waitlist.

XI. Good and Welfare

- A. You can use your HSA card to get a massage!
- B. The massage chair is being transferred to the HPER Center and reservations will be available soon.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Senator Hammond motioned to adjourn. Ex-Officio Shook seconded. Motion carried.