



December 8, 2021

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

Senators Present: Ashley Isom, Audreka Peten, Carlos Herrera, Christy Dade, Jason Cole, Kristin Jetts, Melanie Watson, Nadia Eslinger, Tina Wells, Garth Clayborn, Lynetta Morris, Angela Jackson, Julia Robison, Alison Taylor, Courtney Bryant, Elizabeth Gayfield, Jennifer Ruud, Richard Hammond, Kyana Smith, Veneta Fricks, Kimberly Klotz, Angela Polk, Jason Davis, Hunter Roberts, Emily Cooper Yates

Senators Absent: Thomas McDaniel, Jennifer Day, Shad Foley, Natalie Shock, Steven Shook

I. Call to Order

- A. President Eslinger called the meeting to order at 10:03.

II. Approval of November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

III. Guest Speakers

- A. None

IV. Officer Reports

- A. President, Nadia Eslinger
 1. Thanks to the WinterFeast Committee for an amazing job this year!
 2. Thanks to the Angel Bear Tree Committee as well!
 3. Thanks to everyone who came to the Holiday Reception at the President's House.
 4. UCA Student Center renamed as Ronnie Williams Student Center.
 5. BOT Meeting last week. Joe Whisenhunt is rotating off the Board of Trustees. New Chairman will be Terry Fiddler.
 6. Pandemic Planning Meeting--did not attend b/c No Meeting Monday.
 - a) Omicron variant being monitored closely.

b) Last week 100 vaccines were administered on campus; most were booster shots.

c) 0.2% positivity rate last week

7. [ADHE Strategic Plan](#)

8. 3 “No Meeting Mondays” will be observed in the Spring—dates to come

9. Thanks to Commencement volunteers

10. Holiday Game Night is Monday night at 6 pm

11. Requests for Staff Senate to meet in-person next semester

B. Vice-President, Carlos Herrera

1. Holiday Game Night

a) Appetizers and hors' d'oeuvres will be served; not traditional holiday meal

b) Open for students, faculty, and staff between 6-8 pm. Enjoy appetizers and board games/card games/yard games in McCastlain Ballroom.

c) Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, SGA, and the President and Provost's office contributes toward the event

C. Treasurer, Kristin Jetts

1. Sticky Notes pads finally arrived.

D. Secretary, Garth Clayborn

1. No Report

E. Parliamentarian/Historian, Melanie Straw-Watson

1. Thanks to the Staff Senate for helping make WinterFeast a huge success!

F. Ex Officio, Steven Shook

1. No Report

V. **Senate Committee Report/Highlights**

A. Courtesy Committee

1. Requests for three “get well” cards to be sent out

B. Angel Bear Update

1. 47 Angels and their families received their gifts and food boxes this year!

2. Thanks to Kim Klotz for leading the Angel Bear Committee!

C. WinterFeast Update

1. Ordered food for 280 and had leftovers

D. Basketball Committee

1. We have enough volunteers for the games before Christmas but we need more volunteers for upcoming games after Christmas

E. Reynolds Committee

1. We've had a problem with volunteers no call/no show. May need to start a blacklist for volunteers who do not show up.
2. Need more volunteers for Celtic Angels performance on December 16.

VI. University Committee Reports

A. Parking and Traffic Committee

1. Carlos attended on behalf of Julia Robison. 21 appeals discussed and decided upon.

B. Honorary Degree Committee

1. 2 candidates nominated to receive honorary degrees. BOT will make the final decision following nomination.

C. Retirement Committee

1. Human Resources is partnering with TIAA on a Financial Wellness program for 2022. More information to come soon.
2. Committee voted to approve the Qualified Birth and Adoption Benefit, with the employee required contribution as the source of money eligible for withdrawal. Employees will now be allowed to withdraw up to \$5,000 from their benefits for qualified births or adoptions.
3. Committee approved changing the in-service distribution to age from 70 ½ to 59 ½. The rationale for this change is to make the 457(b) plan equal to 403(b) plans.

D. Strategic Planning Committee

1. Subcommittees being formed. Will outline strategic goals. Reconvening in January to come up with KPI.

E. Veterans Day Committee

1. Need two Staff Senators to serve on that Committee. Currently only have one. Kim Klotz is co-chair of that Committee. Ashley Isom volunteered.

VII. Campus Q&A

- A. None

VIII. Constituent Concerns

- A. None

IX. Old Business

A. None

X. New Business

A. None

XI. Good and Welfare

- A. Art Walk next Thursday in downtown Conway.
- B. Alexis Furlough is a new staff member in Financial Aid.
- C. Kristin Jetts is now Program Coordinator of Student Success at AR Coding Academy.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Senator Isom motioned to adjourn. Senator Herrera seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:36 am..