

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

STAFF SENATE

(NORMAN CAMPUS)

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Chair Matthew Rom called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. in the Scholars Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Officers present – Matthew Rom, Chair; Debbie Copp, Immediate Past Chair; Emilie Bozek, Recording Secretary

Officers absent – John Bishop, Chair-Elect

Staff present – Melissa Lane, Administrative Coordinator

Representatives present – Hourly Employees Council: Kristen Holmes, Ross Mehl, Cecilia Holmes, Nick McCracken, Stephanie Gerhard, Julie Hamburger, David Kizer; Informational Staff Association: Elaine Bradshaw, Sarah Connelly, Corey Helms, Chris Cook; Organizational Staff Council: Marissa Pierson, Jackie Downing, Daveena Stratton, Julia Rouse, Betty Love; Administrative Staff Council: David Goodspeed

Representatives absent — Hourly Employees Council: Dalton Brasington, Crystal Ary, Hope Abraham, Suzie Brewer; Informational Staff Association: Carl Sinclair; Organizational Staff Council: Kristi Wright

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF December 21, 2016

On motion by Marissa Pierson the minutes of December 21, 2016 Staff Senate meeting were accepted.

CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Matthew reported that he attended the Norman Chamber of Commerce Weather Committee meeting held at the Innovation Hub on the South Research Campus. The Innovation Hub is free and open to everyone both on and off campus. Several programs are available in the space including weekly tool demonstrations where visitors can learn more about the tool of the week while making a small craft. Additionally, guest speakers are at the hub every month.

Matthew mentioned that he has attended several of the Staff Initiatives Committee meetings and that they are doing great work. Details of their meetings will be presented later in the meeting.

The regularly scheduled meeting with the Executive Vice President Nick Hathaway is scheduled for tomorrow and will focus on concerns related to the recent Cigna implementation on campus.

Finally, Matthew reminded the Senate of the merit, housekeeping and landscape awards deadline approaching in February. Members were encouraged to identify staff performing exceptional service to the University and submit a nomination.

REPORTS FROM MEMBER GROUPS

Administrative Staff Council: President David Goodspeed reported that they will meet next week.

Hourly Employees Council: President Kristen Holmes reported that they met and talked about their holiday raffle, Ross will post-holiday raffle winners on the HEC Facebook page and website. They plan to meet in March to discuss who will receive their donations next year.

They also looked at their membership definition and decided to wait on changing the definition. The council created a committee to review and research what HSC did when employees changed to hourly and how they restructured their councils.

Informational Staff Association: President-Elect Elaine Bradshaw reported that they had updates from Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and discussion about the ISA website. They also talked about volunteer opportunities for the Art Show and the awards selection committee. They are still seeking two council members to fill vacancies, but everyone in attendance was already on the council or an officer.

Organizational Staff Council: President-Elect Marissa Pierson reported that they met and under old business they discussed Operation Comfort and Joy families and the support that was provided to them. They ended up helping seven families with various needs; overall it was a huge success. They also discussed the new insurance provider CIGNA and some issues that have already arisen seeing doctors and claims. One major problem is having to get preauthorization now for procedures. The change was a bit surprising to staff. Betty Love announced the new parking garage would be opening the upcoming weekend and recommended no one parking on the top floors of garages when there is a chance of ice or snow.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards Committee: By email Chair Liz Cooley reported that they did not meet.

Communications Committee: By email Chair Patricia Koonce reported that they did not meet.

Staff Initiatives Committee: Chair Daveena Stratton reported that they met and continued discussion on the Cancer Insurance Policy offerings and the costs to OU employees. The University would not incur any costs, but any additions to benefits would not be able to take place until 2018 coverage year. The Benefits office is also in discussion of various new policies and is aware of what the committee is proposing.

They also had a great discussion on the six-week paid maternity leave proposal. The Human Resource representative provided them with numbers from 2012 to current for those OU employees that have utilized FMLA for childbirth; there is an average of about 63 a year. The committee established the focus of this proposal would be for staff members with a matching system based on employee's accrued leave and maxing the match to 240 hours or 6 weeks. The committee will develop a questionnaire (approved through legal counsel) to disseminate around OU Norman campus department heads to gather detailed statistics for a concise and clear proposal. The committee will be meeting every two weeks now to edit and make the proposal as polished as possible before presenting it to Staff Senate.

Staff Week Committee: By email Co-Chair Cathy Brister reported that they met and discussed Prize Solicitation and colors/designs for the t-shirts that will be sold this year.

REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND BOARDS

Employee Benefits Committee: Debbie Copp reported that they meet tomorrow.

OTHER REPORTS

The following reports were linked to the January agenda:

Staff Senate Foundation account report

Minutes of Employment Benefits Committee meeting for August 2016

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Senate Volunteer Opportunities: Emilie Bozek reported that she is in the same place because of the holiday season and classes being out. The return call ratio and information return was not great. She has contacted the Big

Event, Food and Shelter for Friends and the Regional Food Bank. She would like to know if anyone else is interested in working on this with her or if anyone has any ideas they would like to bring to the table. Also, she wants to verify whether this strictly a Staff Senate member volunteer opportunity, if we are going to ask member groups to participate, or if we are trying to create something for all staff.

Matthew Rom asked all the groups to talk about this at their next meeting and see who all is interested in participating.

NEW BUSINESS

Cigna Concerns: Matthew Rom is aware that there have been some transition issues with the new health care provider. He would like to hear the problems that have occurred so far so that he can bring them up with Nick Hathaway and send them to the Benefits office. The floor was open and the following concerns were voiced:

Pre-certification is now required for lab work.

Pre-certification for flu shots.

Formulary issues with prescriptions, not as many nor are the same drugs covered. You can go to mycigna.com to see if a drug is covered.

Some individuals are being denied for pre-authorizations that were approved by Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Issues with mental health coverage, lots of Norman doctors do not take Cigna. They have attempted to apply to take the insurance and have been denied

Not all Urgent Cares in Norman are covered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Debbie Copp reported that participation and giving were up for Campus Campaign this year.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: February 15, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Lane
Administrative Coordinator

Emilie Bozek
Recording Secretary