

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

STAFF SENATE

(NORMAN CAMPUS)

Wednesday, April 14, 2020

Chair Sarah Connelly called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Officers present – Sarah Connelly, Chair; Crystal Ary, Chair-Elect; Justin Daniels, Immediate Past Chair, Kristi Wright, Recording Secretary

Staff present – Melissa Lane, Administrative Coordinator

Representatives present – Hourly Employees Council: Tanya Miller Eager, Paul Box, Judy Estes, Kelly Thompson, Ross Mehl, Joanne Braunbeck, Jenn Ille, Jessica Rossman, Will O'Donnell; Informational Staff Association: Cathy Yeaman, Christine Young, Rachel Meyer; Organizational Staff Council: Shannon Overstreet, Diana Fitzpatrick, Margaret Vennoch, Betty Love; Administrative Staff Council: Patrick McClain, Heather Todd, Matthew Rom (Proxy)

Representatives absent — Hourly Employees Council: Kyle Leffler, Joe Northcutt, Amber Gillion; Informational Staff Association: Lana Ferguson, Daniel Deering, Corey Helms; Organizational Staff Council: Jeremy Oxenford, Tonya Iman

Guests — Sean Burrage, Debra Levy Martinelli, Robin Stroud, Rhonda Hill, Chris Cook, Jami Houston, Trish Koonce, Aaron Jones, Kristin Trammell, Katty Tong, Vincent Deberry, Johnnie-Margaret McConnell, Marie Cox, Mary Wuestewald, Holly Anderson, James Morrison, Jen Elsner, Cecilia Perkins, Amanda Schilling, Armawn Asgari, Cindy Clark and Tim Smith, Roland Jacobs, Jay Edwards, Gabe Silvarajoo, Julie Tate, J.R. Hurst, Brent Tweedy, Michael Mahaffey, Geneva Stretch

SPEAKER

Joe Harroz, University updates

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF March 11, 2020

On a motion by Ross Mehl the minutes of March 11, 2020, Staff Senate meeting were accepted.

CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

A lot has happened since our last meeting before Spring Break. Since then, campus closed for the week of Spring Break, and then we were told to work from home, if possible (recently extended to May 8). Today, we have staff working from home, essential staff still working on campus, and some staff who cannot work at home on Admin leave.

Crystal, Justin, Melissa, and I have also been in regular communication with President Harroz and administration during this time. From them, we know they are looking at multiple scenarios based on when the campus can re-open.

Because of the current campus closure, in-person Staff Week events have been cancelled. We are working to re-schedule the Awards Ceremony and Staff Picnic for August. At this time, we do not have additional details but we will let everyone know as soon as we do. Also, we have worked to move two events online: Bingo and the Art Show. We will have two virtual bingo sessions through Zoom next Tuesday and the virtual art show will run next week Wednesday through Friday. We know this will not be the same as coming together in person, but we hope it can still add a little fun to our quarantine time.

As you all know, things are still changing quickly and I know that can be stressful. If you have questions, please reach out to me or your member group President and we will work to find accurate information for you. While we don't know what the future holds – how long campus will be closed, what our budget is going to look like – we can expect that we still have difficult days ahead. During this time, please know Staff Senate is continuing to advocate for all OU staff and communicate accurate information between the administration and the staff community.

REPORTS FROM MEMBER GROUPS

Administrative Staff Council: President Patrick McClain reported that they did not meet due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, over the past few weeks, President McClain has provided updates via emails. The emails included information from Bursar Services about process changes for cash/check receivables, Research Financial Services about process changes related to their staff working remotely, and updates regarding central mail services, travel guidelines, and Safer-At-Home guidance from PACFAM.

Hourly Employees Council: President Tanya Miller Eager reported that they held two meetings. They kept to our schedule and met during the first week of working remotely. Council reported who was still on campus and who was working from home. They discussed all the changes and the various communications we've received from different sources. They had lots of questions and discussed issues surrounding quarantine PTO, shared leave, donating leave, Family First COVID 19, Wellness Portal points, and admin leave issues. Their second meeting, they had more action points. They voted to host a food drive benefiting the OU Food Pantry in lieu of the Ice Cream Social during Staff Week. They talked about how to make masks and what they can do to help our campus community, even if we can't sew. They agreed to make a Q & A document that has a list of resources to put up on their webpage with the plan to get it up at the end of this week. The meeting ended by discussing their annual election process and Melissa sent out the nomination email last week. All in all, they're moving forward the best they can.

Informational Staff Association: President Cathy Yeaman reported that they did not meet in March due to COVID-19.

Organizational Staff Council: President Shannon Overstreet reported that they discussed the continued shutdown and were glad that everyone is still being paid. Everyone was excited about the online Bingo. Rhonda Hill was elected chair-elect for next year. Justin asked for masks to be made. The zoom meeting was well attended.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Communications Committee: Trish Koonce reported that they met by email to edit the Staff Week Newsletter which has been placed on hold.

Staff Initiatives Committee: Jami Houston reported that they met after spring break with a very small group so no real updates. They're continually working on projects, but nothing new.

Staff Week Committee: By email, Chair Trisha Cole reported that they did not meet and do not plan to meet this month. Staff Week 2020 has been cancelled.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEES

Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee: Justin Daniels said that the committee is continuing to review and work on the new documents.

REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND BOARDS

Employee Benefits Committee: Matthew Rom reported they did not meet in March. They will meet virtually on Thursday, April 16, 2020.

OTHER REPORTS

The following reports were linked to the April agenda:

Staff Senate Foundation account report

Minutes of Employment Benefits Committee meeting for January 2020

OLD BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: May 20, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Lane
Administrative Coordinator

Kristi Wright
Recording Secretary