

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

STAFF SENATE

(NORMAN CAMPUS)

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Chair-Elect Justin Daniels called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

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

Officers absent – Crystal Ary, Chair

Staff present – Melissa Lane, Administrative Coordinator

Representatives present – Hourly Employees Council: Paul Box, Jessica Rossman, Minerva Quinonen-Willingham, Ross Mehl, Judy Estes, Karla Pitre Joe Northcutt, David Kizer, Jen Elsner, Terri Smith, Sharrie Sanders; Informational Staff Association: Christine Young, Daniel Deering, Elaine Bradshaw; Organizational Staff Council: Rhonda Hill, Anjanette Pierce, Steven Hanger, Julia Rouse; Administrative Staff Council: Heather Todd, Andrea Flores

Representatives absent — Hourly Employees Council: Will O'Donnell; Informational Staff Association: Corey Helms, Leslie Vennochi; Organizational Staff Council: Jenny Lang, Betty Love

Guests — Robin Stroud, Debra Levy Martinelli, Matthew Rom, Diana Fitzpatrick, Kelly Thompson, Patrick McClain, Rusanna Hardesty, Amber Williams, Jami Houston, Marilyn Korhonen, JA Pryse, Cindy Clark, Ann Seely, Roy Monlux, Alise Osis, Candance Coker, Ann Marie Eckert, Lauren Lee-Lewis, Kristin Trammell, Debbie Farris, Sheri Waldron, Beth Young, Katherine McRae, and Jonathan Dewhirst

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF April 21, 2021

On a motion by Christine Young, the minutes of April 21, 2021, Staff Senate meeting were accepted by an email majority vote.

CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Justin read the following from Crystal Ary:

Hello friends, I do apologize that I am not able to attend this meeting #sorrynotsorry but I am away celebrating high school graduation and taking a little break with my daughter!

If you have not heard a new Provost has been hired, Dr. Andre Wright. Staff Senate is looking forward to collaborating with him in the future once he gets to campus.

Staff Week was April 26th – April 30th; thank you to each of you who participated and congratulations to those of you who were the chosen ones at the art fair. I did not realize how artistically talented our staff is, it is impressive. If you have not seen the entries, please check them out!

Senate Executive staff met on April 28th; the following items were discussed. The constitution and operating procedures, staff senate lunch with Dr. Wright, upcoming lunch with Regent Nagel, Staff week feedback, and the return to campus plan. We do understand there may be some struggles with juggling schedules, kids, and returning to campus, please have conversations with your supervisor and/or HR.

May 5th: Justin and I had lunch with Regent Rick Nagel, we had a great conversation filling him in on the staff senate structure, what we have been able to accomplish this year as well as what we are working on in the future.

May 10th: Justin, Melissa, and I met with President Harroz and VP Burrage. There was a rumor that President Harroz got married a few weeks ago, this rumor is true! Congratulations to him and his wife! Other topics on the agenda for discussion were the return to campus plan specifically a continued masking policy, please be on the lookout for additional communication addressing this concern. Also discussed was what the first 100 days looked like for Dr. Wright who will officially begin work July 1st. We look forward to working with Dr. Wright in the future. We also asked what the status of the CFO + CHRO positions were, CFO position is looking great and moving forward. CHRO position is in the stage of reviewing applications but progress is being made. Staff Senate will continue to have meetings with President Harroz and VP Burrage but will focus more on the Strategic Plan and the role Staff Senate will play. We do look forward to these meetings and how they can benefit the staff.

Scheduled upcoming meetings are:
Staff Senate Executive – May 26th

Any questions?

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you!

REPORTS FROM MEMBER GROUPS

Administrative Staff Council and Informational Staff Council: President Heather Todd and Christine Young reported that they did not meet.

Hourly Employees Council: President Paul Box reported that discussion about the last meeting was briefly discussed. The changes to the constitutions of the Staff Senate were brought up and there were no concerns or questions about the changes that Staff Senate was looking to implement beginning the 2021-2022 academic year. It was discussed to have a group in-person gathering to celebrate the group and all it has accomplished over the last year. Awaiting ideas of where and when are pending at this time.

Organizational Staff Council: President Rhonda Hill reported that they discussed returning to in-person work on August 2nd.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards Committee: By email, Chair Liz Cooley reported that they will not meet the rest of the year.

Communications Committee: By email, Chair Dalton Brasington reported that they met via email to discuss the next staff-wide newsletter on committees.

Staff Initiatives Committee: Chair Jami Houston reported that the Shared Leave subcommittee is anticipating their meeting with exec to discuss the survey they have developed for staff. The Bereavement Leave subcommittee continues to meet to review the process while wait for some information from HR to include in their proposal.

We also discussed the return to campus work plan and had several questions about policies around masks, vaccines, and hybrid/remote work options.

Staff Week Committee: Chair Terri Smith reported Virtual Staff Week was a success! We had 26 crafters, filled all our blood drive slots (resulting in 15 total donations), had 29 entries for the Art Show (with 466 votes cast) and 129 staff members participate in BINGO sessions!

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEES

Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee: Justin Daniels reported that the committee has not received any additional feedback on the documents.

REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND BOARDS

Employee Benefits Committee: Matthew Rom reported the following: They have not met since the April Staff Senate Meeting.

OTHER REPORTS

The following reports were linked to the May agenda:

Staff Senate Foundation account report \$1,285.30

Minutes of Employment Benefits Committee meeting for February 2021

OLD BUSINESS

Paid Parental Leave Proposal: The new proposal was attached to the agenda for review. A motion was made by Heather Todd to move the proposal forward to the Provost Office, Faculty Senate and Administration. An email vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote.

Staff Senate Operating Documents: Justin Daniels asked if everyone had a chance to look over the attached Constitution and Operating Procedures. He asked if there were any questions or concerns that needed to be discussed that have not been addressed. A motion was made by Jessica Rossman to adopt the new documents as written with the effective date of August 1, 2021. An email vote was taken and the motion passed with a two-thirds majority vote.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 16, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Lane
Administrative Coordinator

Kristi Wright
Recording Secretary