

Minutes

UWF Staff Senate

Meeting

Alumni Room

University of West Florida

February 11, 2020

The meeting of the UWF Staff Senate was called to order at 1:30pm by Staff Senate President Jim McMillen.

Attendance was taken by sign in of Senators. The following Senators were present:

Present: Elizabeth Bennett, Sara Brake, Deborah Cluff, Michael Cochran, Zachary Farrington, Alycia Grieco, Tony Hayes, Elaine Henjum, Ethan Henley, Larry King, Akilah Lewis, Adrienne Lewis, Audrey Liss, Jim McMillen, Mike Neff, Angie Quenan, Michelle Riendeau, Monti Stone, Leslie Wyrosdick.

Proxy Attendance: Philip Ebert for Sierra Hansen

Absent: Jesse Hoek; Julie Rettig

Guests: Dr. Martha Saunders – University President; Jeff Comeau-Human Resources; Holly James, Brooke Karas, Salina Ranadall, Kandyce Boehmer, Kathleen Norwood, Koco Brooks, Christina Joseph, Jennifer Griffin, Ginger Brauneis, Kailan Jones, Gabriel Esmurdoc, Chandler McLane.

1. Administrative Reports

Executive Report – Dr. Martha Saunders

Updates for the UWF campus and community were provided by University President, Dr. Martha Saunders.

Dr. Saunders congratulated Staff Senate for a successful Holiday Fest.

Dr. Saunders shared she is looking forward to ERAP this year with the theme 1920s to 2020s. The community will be holding events commemorating women getting the right to vote. In October, a women's march is planned downtown. Dates will be announced later. There will be a march from City Hall and the Mayor will read a Proclamation.

The Division of Research and Strategic Innovation review is still taking place.

The Board of Governors will be coming to Pensacola in September with various meetings in the area during that time.

UWF Inaugural Mardi Gras parade will be this Thursday. There are over 30 entrants including floats and bands. All athletes will be represented at the UWF Mardi Gras parade. The football team will also be serving as grand marshals at the Pensacola Grand Mardi Gras Parade.

The University Registrar search has reached the on-campus interview stage.

Syd Kitson is the new BOG Chair and has outlined his priorities. He has a key interest in work force aligning what we do with workforce needs. Another area of interest is he is keen on outreach and marketing. He is also strongly behind Pillars of Excellence including universities of distinction. Universities have been asked to identify programs where we leverage with what we are doing and what we can do and UWF is focusing on cyber-security.

The Legislature is currently in session. The House dropped a bill to merge New College with Florida State University and Florida Polytechnic with the University of Florida. The Senate does not have a matching bill and neither president of New College and Florida Polytechnic had an idea of the merge.

2. Human Resources – Jeff Comeau

Annual leave rollovers are currently in progress. This is a manual process for any employees with had annual leave in excess of 352 hours at the end of December 2019.

Employees may have received several mail outs from Surgery Plus; these documents are legitimate. The Governor wanted employees to be aware of the Surgery Plus program if needing a major surgery.

Gabor Insurance Company will be holding open enrollment for two products: 1) Long term disability and 2) Mutual Life

9-month Faculty pay will open March 1st and close June 30th; this will only effect those Faculty in the 9-month category.

The House and Senate in Washington passed the Secure Act of 2019 which affects 403bs and 457s and will possibly affect certain investments such as IRAs. There are 6 major portions of the Secure Act of 2019 but the most important that will affect individuals is the required minimum age distribution. Previously, a person who reaches age 70.5 who is no longer employed must take money out; the age has now changed to 72.

3. Approval of Minutes and Treasury Report

President McMillen asked Senators to have previously reviewed the January meeting minutes. No edits were suggested and there were no changes to the Treasury Report.

Motioned by: Alycia Grieco

Seconded by: Ethan Henley

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Guest Speakers

Glenn Carter – Black Employees Association

Due to a change in his schedule, Mr. Carter was unable to attend Staff Senate but has provided a flyer with various events on Campus hosted by BEA.

Kathleen Norwood – Argos All In: Faculty/Staff Giving Campaign

The Argos All In Faculty/Staff Giving Campaign began on Tuesday and runs through March 13th. The goal for this year is 55% participation. The goal last year was surpassed and reached 58%. There are over 300 accounts to choose from to make a gift and payroll deduction is available.

Chandler McLane – United Way

United Way has several volunteer opportunities available outside of donating gifts and the Giving Campaign. United Way is currently recruiting for Community Investment Analysts who help serve on a panel to allocate funding in the community. Another opportunity is the United Way Ambassador Program. United Way is also looking for volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

5. Supervisor of Elections

Senator Hayes provided a list of current buildings that are represented by Staff Senate and asked current Senators to review the list and inform him of any updates that may need to be made. Currently, Staff Senate consists of 21 senators, representing 961 employees. We are looking at adding 7 to 8 new Senators with nominations held in March and elections in April.

In response to the Staff Senator Member search, there were several guests in attendance who expressed interest in becoming a Staff Senator. Senator Hayes provided an overview of Staff Senate and the volunteer opportunities available – Hand to Paw, ERAP, HolidayFest, Textbook Scholarship, etc. Staff Senate now requires a two-year commitment and serving on at least one committee.

Reminder there are two Executive Board openings: Treasurer and Vice President.

5. Committee Reports

Textbook Scholarship

Senator Grieco provided an update. Eleven individuals were awarded for spring with a total of \$744; The Textbook Scholarship will open again for summer after drop/add.

ERAP

President McMillen shared that Eboard has been working on the logistics of the event but welcomed ideas from all Senators.

Senator Hayes provided an update and a worksheet with all tasks that have been completed and any remaining tasks to be completed.

Donations, program/flyer, script and other logistics of the event were discussed.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Staff Senate will now represent OPS Staff. President McMillen provided instructions on how to pull a report of OPS constituents.

Open Forum

None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Quenan - Secretary

Staff Senate Executive Board

President- Jim McMillen

Vice President- Vacant

Supervisor of Elections- Tony Hayes

Secretary- Angie Quenan

Treasurer- Michael Cochran

Senator at Large- Alycia Grieco

Communications- Leslie Wyrosdick