



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for September 2024

Date: Wednesday, September 18th, 2024	Time: 10:00 AM	Location: ULIB 622 Zoom for Guests
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Attendees	<p>Senators Present: James Beinkemper, Eron Bethard, Shane Dykes, Chance Eppinette, Michael Gammon, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall, Andrew Hardee, Caitlyn Hillard, Jennifer Huey, Sabrina McClain, Dana Mejia, Danielle Tolbird, Wesley Welch</p>	<p>Senators Excused: Medria Buford, Erick Burton</p> <p>Senators Absent: None</p> <p>Visitors: Joanna Hunter, Melissa Rhodes, Natalya Van, Grant Saulters, Tonya Quebedeaux, Lauren Weatherford, Allison Thompson, Amaris Harris, Audrey Blackburn</p>
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Call to Order

- September 2024 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Dana Mejia at 10:00 am.
- Roll taken by Secretary Wesley Welch.
- Visitors welcomed by President Dana Mejia.

Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by Senator Bethard to approve the Minutes of the May meeting. Seconded by Senator Hall. Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.

Guest Speaker(s)

No Guest Speaker

Reports of Committees

- Communications- Nothing to report at this time.
- Constitution & Bylaws- Nothing to report at this time.
- Elections- Nothing to report at this time.
- Staff Welfare & Handbook- Nothing to report at this time.

Continuing Business

Staff Handbook

- Past President Hardee stated that the Staff Handbook review has been approved and will be posted soon.

Executive Council Discussion

- President Mejia met with President Berry and Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Arant for the Senate’s direction for the future.
 - President Mejia discussed with Dr. Arant the reduction of budget for the fiscal year for Staff Senate.

- President Mejia discussed with Dr. Berry about staff having more representation on-campus.
 - Dr. Berry invited Staff Senate to send representatives to the University Executive Council Meetings along with a representative from both Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association.

Committee Assignments

- Committee assignments were made with Senator Bethard chairing the Elections and Communications committees. Senator Welch chairs the Staff Welfare and handbook committee, and Senator Burton was nominated and unanimously approved as Parliamentarian and to chair the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Resolution 2425-01 Adopting a Fiscal Budget

- Sponsored by Senator Bethard and Senator Eppinette.
- Staff Senate's budget was reduced from \$8,000 in the 2023-2024 fiscal year to \$5,000 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
 - The Senate spent roughly \$4,300 last year, and the amount spent in each area helped determine how the breakdown of this year's budget would be allocated.
 - Senator Gammon asked about the reductions in Operating Services and for clarification on what it entails.
 - It is for advertising events sponsored by Staff Senate such as Staff Appreciation day or advertisements through social media.
- Resolution passed with 12 Yays, 0 Nays, and 2 Abstains.

Professional Learning Center

- Dr. Arant would like feedback from staff on what they would like to see from the professional learning center.
 - All Senators have been requested to reach out to the constituents within their divisions for feedback on what they would like to see done by the PLC.
- Dr. Joanna Hunter was present to discuss any questions about the policy that has been drafted and how it connects to staff around campus.
 - Dr. Hunter answered questions by Senator Tolbird regarding the academic consultation and engagement part of the proposal. This is not part of the PLC. It is a different entity. Dr. Hunter answered questions pertaining to the inclusion of the Office of Online Student Advocacy's duties expanding to all transfer students as part of the aim of the proposal and discussed how this would not take away the roles from other departments.
 - Dr. Hunter discussed the layout of the roles of the Advisory Boards. There is a proposal for 3 Advisory Boards for the PLC; one consisting of staff from around campus, one consisting of faculty, and one consisting of both faculty and staff who are selected by the Deans, Directors, and Division Leaders. Representation in each other these boards would come from the different respective areas. These boards will work on the needs of professional development for staff and faculty across campus.
 - Senator Gammon discussed the need for more understanding of what a Warhawks actually is. Bring in more knowledge of the history and how it relates to the area of Monroe. Dr. Hunter stated that this is an aim as there is a community aspect to the plan as well.
 - Dr. Hunter answered questions concerning how advancement is possible for those who are not seeking a graduate or doctoral degree. She responded that a response from staff is needed in order to see what those needs would be whether through professional development training or other means that can be provided by the University.

Future Guest Speakers

- President Mejia tasked Senators with suggesting 3 potential guest speakers for future Staff Senate

Meetings.

Service Hours

- All Senators are required to complete 10 hrs of Service for the fall semester and 10 hrs of service for the spring semester. Senators are permitted to attend events around campus for hours as long as those events are not part of the Senator’s job duties. All Senators must enter their service hours on the link that will be provided by President Mejia.

Open Discussion

No open discussions

Adjournment

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Bethard and seconded by Senator Huey. Meeting adjourned by President Dana Mejia.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.