



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MINUTES

December 18, 2019 9:00 AM

ULIB 622

President	Deborah Beaver
ATTENDEES	<p>Senators: Colton Bernstein, Kristin Chandler, Fernando Cordova, Dan DeJarnette, Jason Dunavant, Leslie Exmeyer, Andrew Hardee, Christie Hemphill, Erica Hopko, Meghan Olinger, Melissa Rhodes, Allison Thompson, Lamont Windom, and Hope Young</p> <p>Visitors: No visitors</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Mark Johnson</p>
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Sabrina McClain, Tommie Nelson

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	General Announcements/Approval of Minutes
<p>The meeting was called to order by President Beaver. Motion to approve the November meeting minutes was made by Senator Christie Hemphill and seconded by Senator Meghan Olinger.</p>	
DISCUSSION	Guest Speaker – Mark Johnson, ULMPD
<p>Mark Johnson, Assistant Director – ULMPD, updated the Senators on the CERT (Campus Emergency Response Team). In April 2020, ULM along with LA Volunteer Services, will be providing 16 hours of training to the team. The training is being fully funded by the State. A survey will soon be going out to ULM employees for interest in being involved in CERT and if the planned dates for the training will work. The plan is for the program at ULM to grow and to become self-funded and self-reliant even after there is no grant funding to provide assistance as needed. The first 72 hours of any emergency that might occur falls on the University to respond. Mark provided an example of the tornado destruction and aftermath that recently occurred at LA Tech. Some examples of the tasks that the CERT team could be needed for are light search and rescue, traffic control, food service, and monitoring communications. If an emergency is declared, Tom Torregrossa will be the incident commander and if needed can initiate the use of the CERT trained staff.</p> <p>A volunteer policy has been developed for ULM and a policy fine-tuned for ULMPD. ULMPD now has 5 retired police from various agencies that will serve as reserves at ULM. These officers will be working/volunteering to be a part of extra visibility for law enforcement at campus events and even in patrolling efforts on campus.</p>	

DISCUSSION **Guest Speaker (continued)**

The homeless situation on campus from the surrounding neighborhood has become a serious problem. Mark urged the staff to report to the police department if people are seen that don't belong on campus. The ULM Safe App or a call to ULMPD to let the police know if it is suspected that someone is squatting/hanging out that is not supposed to be there. The police department can then check it out. This can even be done anonymously on the Safe App by stating someone might not belong and which building they are near. Most thefts – backpacks, phones, etc. are usually someone that does not belong on campus. Around 8-10 warnings have recently been issued a week for people that are not part of the university and around 2-3 arrests a week are being made. Student safety is the priority. The police need help in ensuring that if anything doesn't look right or there are people that don't belong that they can check it out.

DISCUSSION **Committee Updates**

Senator Allison Thompson reported on behalf of the Handbook Committee that she was working on updates to the staff handbook and it will soon be set to go to the other committee members, Senator Meghan Olinger and Senator Leslie Exmeyer, for them to look over and comment on. The handbook will be a staff resource used to point to the current policies, but not include the policies. The plan is to get the handbook revised to Melissa Ducote (HR) for her approval so it can become a 2020 Staff Handbook.

DISCUSSION **Old Business**

President Beaver provided an update on the Crisis Leave Policy. At the last meeting the Staff Senate approved the draft copy and sent the policy on to the next approval level. One change was made by Sherrye Carradine, Legal and Compliance Counsel, on page 4 moving a section on "subsequent year requests" to the section relevant to the application process. President Beaver said the policy may be approved and ready to go in the next couple of weeks to be set to use in 2020.

There are no changes in reference to the budget at this time. Any changes will be after spring enrollment figures and projections for spring can be provided.

DISCUSSION **New Business**

Senator Thompson reported on SACSCOC outcomes. Confirmation of accreditation from SACSCOC has been received for the next ten years. Preliminary plans for the 5 year interim check point review will begin as early as next year.

As part of the reauthorization of the Higher Ed Act, there is one proposal that does away with the 7 accreditors that include SACSCOC. That would mean that each institution could continue with SACSCOC or go with another accreditor. The reason behind that part in reauthorization with the Dept. of Ed is that students aren't regionally or geographically bound so why should their accreditation be.

Dr. Bruno stopped by and asked the group to think about the calendar for the new year and let him know any thoughts or comments on the new set up for finals week / grades week and graduation and how having the "dead week" to finalize grades is affecting things. He stated that some faculty do not like the "dead week" and he wants some feedback from the Staff Senate.

President Beaver presented the Spring 2020 meeting dates for Staff Senate as follows: January 15, February 19, March 18, April 8, and May 20. All meetings will be at 10:00 a.m. and held at ULIB 622. She has asked Sami Owens to come in January to speak on enrollment.

DISCUSSION **Closing**

There being no other business, Senator Dan DeJarnette made a motion to adjourn; Senator Lamont Windom seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be January 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in ULIB 622.