



# STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MINUTES

January 20, 2021

10:00 AM

ZOOM Conference Call

<b>President</b>	Allison Thompson
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p>Senators: Debbie Beaver, Mallory Benedetto, Benji Buffington, Mystee Burrell, Fernando Cordova, Dan DeJarnette, Leslie Exmeyer, Therese Filhiol, Andrew Hardee, Christie Hemphill, Robyn Jordan, Meagan Morris, Meghan Olinger, Melissa Rhodes, Lamont Windom</p> <p>Visitors: Steven Burnside, Kelly Cole, Joanna Hunter, Mark Labude, Sabrina McClain, Noelle Prestridge, Dr. Donald Simpson</p>
<b>Excused</b>	Hope Young

President Thompson called the January 2021 meeting to order. Secretary Hemphill called roll. The motion to approve the December 2020 Staff Senate Meeting minutes was made by Senator Benedetto and seconded by Senator Olinger.

President Thompson welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

<b>Guest Speaker</b>	<b>John Lewandowski, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Communications and Marketing</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ John has worked for ULM Athletics since the fall season of 2017. He has been involved in Athletics for 40 years and really enjoys coming to work every day.</li> </ul>

**Statements/Questions**

- Malone Stadium is being renovated at this time and employees have moved to the coliseum.
- Winter Sports are taking place. Indoor Track started last week and Baseball and Softball will kick off soon.
- John's department handles most of the social media for the ULM teams but some coaches prefer to handle their own day-to-day information.
- With newspapers shrinking, we really have to be our own media channel.
- In 2019, out of all the Division 1 football-playing programs, ULM ranked 111 in terms of social media presence on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. However, ULM really doesn't get any credit for Facebook from that stand point. In 2020, with the pandemic a winless football season and the hiring of Coach Terry Bowden we jumped all the way to 66.
- Since January 1, 2021, we are number 17 in the country with social media presence. Overall Channels were up 25% percent. With the press release of hiring Coach Bowden, we had 110 thousand impressions on Twitter. When we hired the country's youngest defensive coordinator, Zachary Alley, he had 45 impressions on Twitter.
- The press release for Rich Rodriguez coming along with his son to ULM had over half a million impressions on Twitter.
- The environment is changing over in football.
- Everyone has a role to play.
- We want faculty and staff to feel pride around campus on Fridays by wearing their ULM shirts.
- Better days are ahead for Athletics. You will see results.
- Is there a decision to have a single Facebook page for individual spots in Athletics? Yes, this could change in the future.
- Does it help if I like an Athletic page on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram?  
Yes, this is something you can do to help.
- Is there a Faculty/Staff discount for Athletic Games tickets? Is there also an option for 6 months payment?  
Yes, this can even be done through payroll deduction monthly.

**Continuing Business**

- Is there still a Kids Club?  
Yes, ULM has the Warhawks Kids Club for athletic events for \$25.00.
- Has Athletics thought about an all access pass for Faculty/Staff?  
Yes, this is something to look at in the future. There have been talks about family plans for football.
- ULM pride ourselves that we do have a number of sports that are not charged.
- Does the Young Grads pass still exist for five years? Yes, this is something that we may need to phase back in.
- Athletics has a Hawk-Walk after the game where the team and coaches walk through the grove after the game.
- We are holding the high ground on water sports. Treina Kimble and Greg Andrews serve as the staff advisor for the Ski Team.
- What are the two advantages that the offensive team has on every play? You know the play and you know where you're going to run the ball.
- What is the advantage for the defense? They have movement.
- First Hand news – Coach Bowden is planning to start a segment called Campus Tours and Why ULM.
- The University did receive the Cares Act Funding.

**Continuing Business**

- **Focus Group Update** – Allison and Kelly are coding the transcriptions of all of the sessions so they can analyze the information to put in a format to give to Dr. Berry.
- **Classified Raises** - President Berry is talking with the UL System.
- **Communication Committee** - Senator Beaver – Meagan Morris has agreed to be media director. They are working on polices and content information.
- **Staff Welfare Committee** – Senator Hemphill – No updates at this time.
- **Handbook Committee** – President Thompson – Still working on getting this completed.
- **Constitution and Bylaws** – Senator DeJarnette - No updates at this time.
- **Elections Committee** – Senator Rhodes –No updates at this time.

**New Business**

**What's going on around campus?**

- HR Department – The hiring of new football coaches.
- Physical Plant Department– Removal of Emergency Call Boxes around campus.
- Student Success Center – Students are still trying to get into classes. Some of our International students are back on campus.
- Financial Aid – FAFSAs are coming in. A new Financial Aid Counselor has been hired in the department. Marla Herrington has been named the new Director for Financial Aid Services. Senator Rhodes has been named the new Associate Director of Operations in

**Adjournment**

Financial Aid.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Senator Hardee to adjourn, seconded by Senator Filhiol.

The next meeting will be February 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.