



<h2 style="margin: 0;">STAFF SENATE MINUTES</h2>
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**August 18, 2021 10:00 am Library Conference Room 622/Zoom**

<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Senators: Greg Andrews, Kristal Anzalone, Mallory Benedetto, Benji Buffington, Mystee Burrell, Fernando Cordova, Ginger Ezell, Therese Filhiol-Secretary, Andrew Hardee-Parliamentarian, Joanna Hunter, Robyn Jordan, Melissa Rhodes-President, Jimmy Waller, Sara Webb</p> <p>Visitors: Steven Burnside, Kelli Cole, Jay Curtis, Marla Herrington, Erika Hopko, Coty Lee, Noelle Prestridge, Ashley Taylor, Cole Thornton, Kim Storm</p>
<b>Excused</b>	Meagan Morris, Meghan Olinger-Vice President/President Elect, Allison Thompson-Past President, Nicole Walker, Hope Young
<b>Call to Order</b>	<p>August 2021 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Rhodes</p> <p>Roll taken by Secretary Filhiol</p> <p>Visitors welcomed by President Rhodes</p>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Motion by Senator Buffington to approve the Minutes of the July 2021 meeting</p> <p>Seconded by Senator Ezell</p>
<b>Guest Speaker</b>	<p><b>Kim Storm, ULM Self-Development, Counseling, and Special Accommodations Center (SCSAC)</b></p> <p>The Counseling Center at ULM was rebranded this year to indicate the inclusion of all services available at the Center to students, faculty, and staff. Additional staff was added to make services more available to the campus community. Trends of counseling issues currently seen are anxiety, depression, academic concerns, relationships, and pandemic-related grief. The past year saw a 30% increase in client contact. Another trend is mental health concerns increasing becoming disabilities and therefore requiring accommodations. Anyone who has contact with students, faculty, or staff who may need services is encouraged to refer them to the Center.</p> <p>Counseling is a way to address the stressors and triggers for a physical, mental, or emotional reaction to something. Many of us who are on campus in a role that serves others often neglect our own self-care. Becoming more self-aware is a first step in addressing our own mental health needs. There is an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) available on the Human Resources website that allows up to three free sessions of various types of counseling from providers off-campus.</p> <p>Ms. Storm offered an exercise in mindfulness to demonstrate one way to help manage stress. After the exercise, she reiterated the availability of the SCSAC to all members of the campus community, including workshops for students that are available on the website. She also said they are available to visit classrooms and departments to share information. Counseling sessions are provided by both licensed marriage &amp; family therapists and certified counselors. Sessions are conducted via Zoom.</p> <p>Referrals can be made through the website if there's a concern for someone's welfare. Someone from the SCSAC will contact the individual just to check in.</p>
<b>Reports of Committees</b>	<p><b>Communications</b> – Our Facebook page has been published with pictures of ULM employees wearing their 90th anniversary t-shirts.</p> <p><b>Welfare</b> – Work is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Handbook</b> – No report.</p>

**Constitution & Bylaws** – No report.

**Elections** – No report.

**Unfinished Business**

**Updates from President Rhodes:**

- Budget - ULM's budget will be submitted to the UL System Board on August 26, 2021.
- Staff Senate Shirts – Styles have been selected and Senators are requested to provide their sizes.

**Constitution and Bylaws:**

New document that was previously presented at the July meeting for review was presented by Committee Chair Parliamentarian Hardee for Senate approval. Motion to approve the document made by Parliamentarian Hardee and seconded by Secretary Filhiol. Motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call vote of members present.

**New Business**

Parliamentarian Hardee announced:

- Yik Yak, a location-based social media app that allows anonymous posting, has been relaunched after an absence of a few years. When the app was last active, there were some problems at ULM related to complaints about everyday things. It is not really a big threat, just a nuisance. Available on Apple but not yet on Android.
- COVID is present on campus; listeners are advised to take it seriously and exercise the usual precautions of masking, social distancing, and hygiene.
- The National Guard is coming back to campus to do testing and vaccinations.

**Adjournment**

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Hunter and seconded by Senator Benedetto.

The next meeting will be September 15, 2021 at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622. Guests may attend via Zoom.