



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for September 2023

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023	Time: 10:00 AM	Location: ULIB 622 Zoom for Guests
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Attendees	Senators Present: Andrew Hardee, Chloë Beaver, Dana Mejia, Eron Bethard, Shane Dykes, Sarah Siereveld, James Beinkemper, Therese Filhiol, Sabrina McClain, Sara Webb, Ahmaad Solmone, Faith Wilson, Meghan Olinger, Chris Williams, and Cindy Foust.	Senators Excused: Senators Absent: Visitors: Joanna Hunter, Eileene Victorian, John Sutherlin, Grant Saulters, Jennifer Huey, Wesley Welch, and Jessica Griggs.
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Call to Order

- September 2023 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Hardee at 10:03 a.m.
- Roll taken by Secretary Beaver.
- Visitors welcomed by President Hardee.

Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by Senator Wilson to approve the Minutes of the August 2023 meeting. Seconded by Senator Siereveld. The Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.

Guest Speaker(s)

- Celia Webb, Benefits Manager- ADA Coordinator, Department of Human Resources
- Ms. Webb discussed how the Office of Human Resources (HR) assists active, retired, and future university employees with selecting the right benefits for them and their family members. Ms. Webb discussed that Vantage will no longer be an option for health insurance in 2024. During open enrollment, employees currently in the Vantage plan will be asked to choose another plan or will be placed on Magnolia Plus. For 2024, all health insurance plans will be Blue Cross Blue Shield and there will be a premium increase. HR encourages employees to use the Blue Cross Blue Shield portal/website to review and make any necessary changes to their plans. Information on Supplemental Benefits can be found on the Warhawk Benefits webpage. Staff should review and update their beneficiaries on TRSL retirement and any amounts on FSA or HSA. Open enrollment for employee benefits is from October 1, 2023, to November 15, 2023. Employees should review their plans and make any necessary adjustments during this time. Appointments can be made with the Benefits Office by calling the main HR number and inquiries can be sent to benefits@ulm.edu. There will be a Benefits Fair on October 3, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Terrace. On October 10, OGB will be at the Monroe Civic Center from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Past President Olinger asked who should be contacted for inquiries about Life Insurance and if they will be at the Benefits fair. Ms. Webb answered that all inquiries regarding Life Insurance should be directed to HR or through email at benefits@ulm.edu.

Reports of Committees

- Communications- No report.
- Constitution & Bylaws- Will be discussed in Open Discussion.
- Elections- President-Elect Mejia created a Google Form to manage service hours and has a running list of past hours. Currently, senators have accrued a total of 33 service hours for the fall semester. Questions about what can be used for service hours should be directed to President-Elect Mejia. Senator Siereveld mentioned Alumni will have opportunities for service hours throughout the semester.
- Staff Welfare & Handbook- No report.

Continuing Business

- President Hardee and Past President Olinger met with Provost & VPAA, Dr. Mark Arant, to discuss the university budget. The topic of retention was emphasized and how it affects the budget, new students, and enrollment numbers. Staff can help with retention by providing the best customer experience. There is also a focus on new programs and new students. Department size is also being evaluated. Workforce reductions are on the table but are the last option. Enrollment numbers have just been finalized with the 14th class day census.

Open Discussion

- Committee Appointments
 - Communications
 - Chair – Faith Wilson
 - Eron Bethard
 - Shane Dykes
 - Ahmaad Solmone
 - Constitution & Bylaws
 - Chair – Sara Webb
 - Cindy Foust
 - Sarah Siereveld
 - Elections
 - Chair – Dana Mejia
 - Chris Williams
 - Sabrina McClain
 - Staff Welfare & Handbook
 - Chair - Chloë Beaver
 - Therese Filhiol
 - James Beinkemper
- Senate Resolution 2324-01: Resolution Amending the Constitution and Bylaws
 - The Resolution amends the Constitution and Bylaws, Article II, Section 4.B. to add the requirement of 10 service hours per semester for sitting senators.
 - The Resolution amends the Constitution and Bylaws to change the position of Secretary to Secretary-Treasurer and amends Article III, Section 1.F. to state that the Secretary-Treasurer will serve as the financial officer and oversee and maintain all financial records.
 - The Resolution amends the Constitution and Bylaws, Article VI. Budget to include rules on the management and expenditures of the annual Staff Senate budget.
 - Resolution motioned by Senator Cindy Foust.
 - Seconded by Senator Therese Filhiol.
 - Total 13 Yays
 - Total 0 Nays

- 0 Abstentions
- Senate Resolution Adopting 2023-2024 Budget
 - Proposed budget: \$8,000 budget for 2023-2024
 - The Senate reviewed the proposed 2023-2024 budget. Once approved, the proposed budget will be managed following Article VI. of the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - Motioned by Senator Faith Wilson.
 - Seconded by Senator Sabrina McClain.
 - No debate.
 - Total 12 Yays
 - Total 0 Nays
 - 1 Abstention
- Open discussion on how divisions might request senate funds. President Hardee and the Executive Council will create a document for divisions to requests senate funds. Once created, the document will be sent to the divisions.

Adjournment

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Filhiol and seconded by Senator Bethard. Meeting adjourned by President Hardee.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18 at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.