Staff Senate Minutes

July 1, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Margie Link called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Wednesday July 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in WebEx virtual online meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

**Senators Present:**

Kaitlynn Beaird
Rachel Broussard
Judy Crouch
Cynthia Dixon
Tanya Dougan
Brandi Duvall
Kaitlin Ennis
Cole Hendrix
Susan Johnson
Margie Link
Krystle Manning
Teresa Lutz
Amber Meek
Tammy Rye
Brittany Reves
Lydia Rogers
Lyndsay Simpson
Alisa Williams

**Senators Absent:**

None

**Visitor(s):**

Brett Abington
Sabrina Anwar
Bryan Bramlett
Sabrina Briley
Jessica Brock
Deidra Dillard
Laury Fiorello
Ashley Golleher
Jennifer Griffin
Tammy Guarino
Alida Gutierrez
Donna Henderson
Suzanne Kellar
Jennifer Thomas
William Titsworth
Alisa Waniewski
Vallli Wanzer

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the May 5th, 2021 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Senator ??? filed a motion to accept the minutes. Senator Rye seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

**Special Report**

Ms. Laury Fiorello:

* Ms. Fiorello asked the senators for feedback on how she could be an effective liaison between staff senate and the executive council. President Link asked Ms. Fiorello to keep us informed of anything that effects staff specifically, such as the Remote Work Policy.
* We are significantly behind enrollment, about 12%, for undergraduates. Graduates is up 12.5%. Ozark is down 4.47% compared to last fall. Housing is also down about the same as freshman undergraduates. They are correlating about the same trend. We do have a contingency plan in the budget and will know more about this later if the numbers don’t bounce back like they should.

Special Guest, Ashley Golleher, ATU Government Relations Director:

* Ms. Golleher is the liaison to government. Her focus is on the state level, but does work with local governments as well. She also works with the Governor’s office, Arkansas Dept of Higher Education and AR Legislature.
* Historically ATU has been underfunded, but legislature has been unsuccessful. However, the next 4 years ATU will receive approximately 3.4 million to our base.
* Ms. Golleher stated to contact her with any problems, concerns or ideas that we have in the future.

**Committee Reports**

* **President’s Communication –** attached
* **Budget Advisory –** No report
* **Scholarship –** No report
* **University Strategic Planning –** No report
* **Insurance Committee –** No report
* **IT Prioritization and Impact** – No Report
* **University Communication Working Group –** No report
* **Campus Space and Utilization –** No report
* **Green and Gold Cupboard –** No report
* **Staff Awards –** No report

**New Business**

*Welcome New Staff Senators-*

President Link welcomed new Staff Senators Tanya Dougan and Krystle Manning, both from Student Affairs. We still have 2 positions that need to be filled from Admin and Finance, we really need these positions filled by August.

*Green and Gold Cupboard -*

Ms. Fiorello stated that EC has indicated that we would have space made available on campus if Staff Senate wanted to take over the and run the Green and Gold Cupboard. Ms. Fiorello believed the space would be located by the museum where there is a ramp. Staff Senate would be responsible for working and scheduling for the cupboard. The location suggested would however would only be temporary due to the new student union. The cupboard would only be for non-perishable products, due to no freezers. President Link is going to schedule a walk through of the space with Dr. Birkner.

**Old Business**

*Staff Senate Constitution Committee-*

The committee did meet again and were all agreement that some senators had concerns about having their supervisors serve on staff senate. The compromise from the committee was that all staff would be eligible, except for anyone that reported directly to the president or to a vice president and someone who act in a department head capacity. President Link will send out a survey about this and length of term for senators and when elections should take place. This needs to be decided by August.

*Flexible Work Assignment Policy-*

Needs a senate representative to the Work Policy committee. Senators wanting to serve on this committee were asked to email President Link. There were 3 senators that volunteered. There was a google poll and Kaitlynn Beaird was voted the Staff Senate Representative for the Work Remote Policy Committee.

**Open Forum**

None

**Announcements**

None

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 5th at 10 a.m.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Senator Crouch filed a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Hendrix seconded the motion. The Senate voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyndsay Simpson, Secretary

President’s Communication -

* Covid update - new mask policy, vaccinated – don’t have to wear a mask.
* State up 479 cases, positivity rate up 10% (people that are being tested are 10% positive), Vaccinating rate 39%
* Goal is 50%, hospitalization increasing. 98% hospitalizations are the unvaccinated. Working with SGA to get students vaccinated. Dept. of Health on campus 8-16- and 8-18. Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer.
* Effecting mostly young people – Delta variant. After July 27, cannot require masks, cannot ask if they are vaccinated.
* Laury Fiorello - Hour of vacation or work extra hour on Friday for July 4th holiday.
* Contracts rolling out in employment que.
* H/R working on remote work policy.
* Year end – Different this year. First Security new bank. July 6th everyone will be back on the system. First Security offering better interest rate and lower fees.
* Year End - Closed out blanket purchase orders, have to re-enter in new fiscal year. July 06, enter requisitions, July 01, can use P-card. Work with H/R, procurement and travel, training (online). Also training in groups.
* Energy policy. Goes into effect July 01. Thermostats set at 74-summer, winter-68. Higher and lower when buildings aren’t occupied. No space heaters, no refrigerators. Can have personal refrigerators removed free of charge. Exceptions (equip). Form on website.
* Enrollment down, 12.4% (Undergrad), Grad up 12.5%. 11th class day is when we will know about enrollment. Down about $3 million.
* Leadership Tech – Cohort 5 selected two year ago, will start this Fall. Will start face to face. Start cohort every other year, instead of two running at the same time.
* AR Governor’s school update. 370 students on campus Monday, July 05. 72 faculty and staff helping with AGS. ATU will Host in 2022, 2023, 2024.
* Revenue stabilization Act. - Added funding to ATU’s base starting this year and for the next 3 years. $858,000 each year added to base. End up with $3.4 million added to ATU’s base. 4 years all together
* Higher Ed does not get the 3% raise the governor talked about and was seen on social media.  This excluded Hi-Ed.
* Res Life. - 12th and 13th and 14th, open appointment system. Central check in system
* Dr. Bowen – Remote work policy - Two questions, How are staff dealing with return to campus? What do you want remote work policy to address and consider?