Staff Senate Minutes

March 31, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Margie Link called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Webex virtual online meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

**Senators Present:**

Kaitlynn Beaird

Angie Bell

Rachel Broussard

Judy Crouch

Cynthia Dixon

Brandi Duvall

Kaitlin Ennis

Cole Hendrix

Susan Johnson

Margie Link

Teresa Lutz

Amber Meeks

Alan Parsons

Lydia Rogers

Tammy Rye

Lyndsey Simpson

Amee Standridge

Alisa Williams

**Senators Absent:**

Christopher Duncan

Shelly Handley

Brittany Reves

**Visitor(s):**

Linda Birkner

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the March 10, 2021 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Senator Johnson filed a motion to accept the minutes. Senator Crouch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

**Special Report**

Dr. Birkner: no update

**Committee Reports**

* **President’s Communication –** No report
* **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

**Old Business**

*Staff Senate Survey Results*

President Link shared that she was still compiling the survey results and that she would send those out as soon as she could.

**New Business**

*Staff Senate Constitution – Change in Membership Eligibility*

Several suggestions have been made to change the verbiage in the constitution to allow for more staff members to be eligible to serve. A committee was formed to conduct research on the topic to present at the next meeting. Committee members include Lydia Rogers, Kaitlynn Beaird, Judy Couch, Rachel Broussard, and Margie Link.

*Campus Restructure*

Several questions, concerns, and suggestions were brought to senators that included topics regarding:

* Faculty/staff tuition waiver benefit
* Layoff notification timeline and reasoning
* Budget and restructuring decisions
* Creating a new staff senate survey to mirror faculty senate’s to better capture the perspectives of staff members across campus

Secretary Beaird compiled a list so the Senate could discuss. President Link and Secretary Beaird are going to conduct relevant research and compile a report to submit to the Executive Committee. President Link has also submitted a new survey for approval from Walter Branson. It will be sent out if/when it is approved.

**Open Forum**

A question was also submitted to a senator from a staff member asking about how the university is tracking COVID-19 vaccinations and the ethicality of this. Questions included where the report came from, how the report was compiled (self-reporting, insurance, etc.) and if the report included names of people who were vaccinated or if it was just numbers. This question will be included in the report submitted to the Executive Committee.

**Announcements**

Vice President Alan Parsons has accepted a new position at a community college in Kansas. His last day will be April 2nd. He thanked everyone for allowing him to serve and also reminded everyone that his position will be open in Academic Affairs, as well as his Vice President position.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 5th at 10 a.m.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Senator Standridge filed a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Hendrix seconded the motion. The Senate voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaitlynn Beaird, Secretary