Staff Senate Minutes

June 2, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Margie Link called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Wednesday June 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Webex virtual online meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

**Senators Present:**

Kaitlynn Beaird

Rachel Broussard

Judy Crouch

Cynthia Dixon

Brandi Duvall

Kaitlin Ennis

Amanda Handley

Cole Hendrix

Susan Johnson

Margie Link

Teresa Lutz

Amber Meek

Lydia Rogers

Tammy Rye

Brittany Reves

Alisa Williams

**Senators Absent:**

Angie Bell

Christopher Duncan

Lyndsay Simpson

**Visitor(s):**

Joceline Argueta

Linda Birkner

Sabrina Briley

Jessica Brock

Joshua Clem

Brandi Collins

Deidra Dillard

Stacy Galbo

Brandie Gibbs

Tammy Guarino

Alida Gutierrez

Tracey Hale

Donna Henderson

Terry Holland-Finley

Kassidy Jones

Meredith Lawson

Ashlyn Lee

Christy Longoria

Paula Reed

Laura Rudolph

Allison Sheehan

Kristen Smith

Jennifer Thomas

Alisa Waniewski

Jamie Young

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

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

**Special Report**

Dr. Birkner:

* Some sidewalks were identified as safety hazards and those are being torn up and worked on around campus
* New sign going up near the Corley building that is being paid for by the foundation. This sign is to accommodate a large donation that was made a few years back.
* Williamson building is going great and all projects are on schedule and moving ahead.
* Brought to staff senate the possibility of bringing back the food pantry, this was a suggestion from Dr. Johnson. Senator Crouch suggested adding to the agenda for July meeting.

**Committee Reports**

* **President’s Communication –** No Report
* **Budget Advisory –** No report
* **Covid Task Force-** Tammy Guarino stated that if you fully vaccinated, you do not have to wear your mask anywhere around campus now.
* **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**

*Staff Senate Nominations-*

We have 4 open positions, 2 in Students Affairs and 2 positions in Administration and Finance. Senator Beaird will be sending out a from for nominations. Depending on how many nominations we get, will determine whether or not we have to hold an election.

*Flexible Work Assignment Policy-*

Growing number of staff members that felt like they were more productive working from home during the Covid pandemic. President Link reached out to ASU-Jonesboro, UCA and U of A-Fayetteville to see what their policies were and UCA currently does not, but ASU and U of A does. They are in the process of revising their policies. President Link wanted to get everyone’s thoughts on this matter and discuss options. She stated that she knew that this would not be fair to all staff, due to certain staff that have to be on campus to do their job. Tammy Guarino stated that she can see it being productive to be able to work form home if you have to stay home with a sick child, but not to just stay and home and work. President Link asked how senate felt about staff that live 40-45 minutes away from campus. Several comments were made that those staff knew that they were aware of the distance when they applied for the job. Senator Crouch agreed with the comments that were made and thought that it would create resentment among the staff and believed this needed to be approached very carefully. Working from home needed to be under certain circumstances such as a sick child, illness or other medical condition. Senator Beaird stated that she was in a face to face to position and this would never be fair to her, but there are positions that this could work. It could free up office space, reduce energy costs and they can get just as much done from home. She stated that we should consider them and consider that we could be using a ton of positions to remote options. Senator Rogers agreed that many places are moving remote and that we can still be highly productive from home. However, we need to be really careful that we don’t penalize people that live 3 minutes from campus of have grown children. Flexible schedules could boost morale and maybe offer flexible workdays at home each month. There needs to be certain perimeters. Senator Duvall stated that a policy does need to be created because the university already has people working remotely from home that don’t live in this area. As of now, there is no policy that exists that covers working remotely. Senator Duvall believes that at one time the university was trying to put together a committee to work on this policy, but has been put on the back burner due to being overwhelmed. President Link was going to contact HR and find out if this policy was in the works. This will be placed on the agenda again for July.

**Old Business**

*Staff Senate Constitution Committee*

This committee met via email back and forth and still don’t have a clearer decision on staff senators and who would be eligible. This will need to be narrowed down because we have to have it approved by the board of trustees and their next meeting is in August.

**Open Forum**

None

**Announcements**

President Link announced that Dr. Birkner would longer be our liaison, but Laury Fiorello would be our new liaison for staff senate. She is a part of EC, which meets every Wednesday from 8-12pm and has requested that we meet at a different time. Senate decided that Thursday mornings work best.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 1st at 10 a.m.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Senator Handley filed a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Crouch seconded the motion. The Senate voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyndsay Simpson, Secretary

**Anonymous Submissions: May 27,2021 – June 2, 2021**

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| 05/28/2021 | Staff | What is the University going to do for the people who don't have a phone that allows them to download and/or use DUO? |
| 05/29/2021 | Staff | time and time again when the powers that be orders flags flown at half staff we at ATU at Tucker coliseum and the baseball field never lower the flags i for one think its embarrassing and disrespectful. Tech has a athletic facilities mgr why cant he lower the flags when ordered? Public safety lowers there flag. this happens EVERY TIME every on else off campus lowers there flag just look around. rant over |