Minutes Staff Senate Meeting, July 11, 2019

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Staff Senate
Staff Senate July Meeting and Retreat
07/11/2019
Arkansas World Trade Center

I. The meeting was called to order by chair, Trish Watkins, at 9:02 AM
II. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the agenda
III. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve minor changes to Staff Senate June monthly minutes
IV. The Staff Senate picture was taken
V. Roll call – Elon Turner
VI. Human Resources Updates – Debbie McLoud
   a. COLA, merit, and pay plan implementation are in effect
   b. Many new certificate programs and training and development opportunities are available on the central HR website at https://hr.uark.edu/working/training/index.php
   c. WorkDay implementation is on track for July 1, 2020
   d. Health plan increases are in effect
      i. Medical premiums have increased but co-pays and other out of pocket costs have not increased
      ii. Wellness incentive opportunities are in effect
         1. Free weight loss program called Real Appeal
         2. Free wellness exam between November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019
            a. This visit must be coded as a wellness exam by the physician’s office in order to qualify
         3. Reminder that the Tobacco Pledge must be completed each year during open enrollment in November
            a. Tobacco fees fund campus wellness events and activities for employees
   e. Mandatory retirement contributions are now 4%, up from 3%
      i. Countdown to retirement programs have improved retirement goals for almost 1,700 employees
         1. This program will continue in the spring
   f. Reminder that for dependents to qualify for the tuition waiver benefit, dependents must be IRS defined tax dependents
   g. The Benefits Fair is set for November 8, 2019
VII. Institutional Budget Presentation – Chris McCoy
VIII. Chancellor Steinmetz spoke about Campaign Arkansas, Advance Arkansas Scholarship, Student Success Center, student retention, research responsibilities as a land grant University, and the 150 year Anniversary celebration being planned for 2021.
IX. Committee Overview and Formation
   a. Staff Senate committees were discussed and are open for Staff Senate members to join
      i. Awards committee is headed by Elizabeth McKinley
      ii. Communications committee is headed by Roy Cordell
      iii. Elections committee is headed by Stephen Ritterbush
iv. Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year committee is headed by Autumn Parker
v. Internal Affairs committee is headed by Denise Bignar
vi. Legislative committee is headed by Devyn Moore
vii. Scholarship committee is headed by EmmaLe Davis
viii. Special Events committee is headed by Michael Rau
ix. Transit, Parking, and Safety committee is headed by Michela Cupello

b. Deadline to sign up for a committee is Friday, July 19, 2019

X. Campus Council
   a. Trish Watkins and Cindy Morley serve as Chairs
   b. Volunteers for campus council were requested
      i. Raymond Anders, Travis Hefley, Erin Butler, Katie Doughty, EmmaLe Davis, Danielle Dunn, Kelly Westeen, Theresa Parrish, Michael Rau, Allen Porter, Elon Turner, Rachel Gray, Trisha Ducote, Stephen Ritterbush,

XI. Core values of Staff Senate discussed
   a. Most common word choice to describe the ideal Staff Senator trait was “communication”
   b. Staff Senate is helping to support the Chancellor’s Guiding Priorities and will work to reaffirm presence and purpose to University staff
   c. Senators are encouraged to engage more with staff members
      i. Discussion was held to entertain the idea of creating a staff publication in addition to Newswire

XII. University grievance process presentation – J’onnelle Colbert-Diaz

XIII. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn at 3:48 PM

Senators in Attendance:

Raymond L. Anders
Denise Bignar
Erin Butler
Collin Reed Caley
Roy Cordell
EmmaLe Davis
Katie Doughty
Trisha DuCote
Danielle Dunn
Matthew Fey
Rachel Gray
Cecilia Grossberger-Medina
Clayton Hamilton
Derrick Hartberger
Travis Hefley
Daniela Kidd
Katherine Kimmerly
Joe Loy
Debbie McLoud
Matthew Meyers
Cedar Middleton
Devyn Moore
Cindy Morley
Autumn Parker
Theresa Parrish
Terri Phelan
Allen Porter
Michael Rau
Stephen Ritterbush
Elon Turner
Quincy Ward
Trish Watkins
Kelly Westeen
Colleen Whitman
Toya Williams

**Senators Absent:**
Ana Isabel Ayala Barker
Alex Booth
Michela Cupello
Evan Hinchliffe

Elizabeth McKinley