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Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

Staff Senate

2020-04-09

Minutes Staff Senate Meeting, April 9, 2020

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Staff Senate

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Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
04/09/2020
Online Meeting

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.
- II. Discussion of guidelines for conducting online meetings
 - A. Please keep your microphone muted and your camera off if you are not speaking to reduce background noise and distractions
 - B. If you are not the recognized speaker and you would like to make a motion, please post in the chat
 - 1. Seconding of motions will occur in chat
 - C. Make comments or ask questions in the chat
 - D. Voting will take place in chat
- III. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the agenda
- IV. Roll Call – Elon Turner
- V. Campus Updates
 - A. Human Resources Updates – Debbie McLoud
 - 1. Most campus employees are working from home
 - 2. Some mandatory on-site workers are present on campus
 - a. Working on getting the number of mandatory on-site workers reduced even further
 - 3. Governor has not issued a shelter in place order, but preparations are being made
 - 4. Hiring pause in effect for all open positions
 - a. Departments must justify any hiring during this time if necessary
 - b. Applicants have been notified of hiring pause
 - 5. Updated health insurance premiums will be effective July 1, 2020
 - a. Increase of about 10.7% spread out across the three plans
 - i. 2.5% increase in the health savings plan
 - ii. 12% increase to the premium health plan
 - iii. Classic plan premium will depend on the type of coverage
 - 1. 9% for employee only
 - 2. 12% for employee and spouse
 - 3. 9% for employee and child(ren)
 - 4. 11% for family
 - b. The premium increase will be considered a qualifying event
 - i. Employees can change their plans from July 1, 2020, until July 30, 2020
 - 6. No new information on employee raises
 - 7. No Workday implementation delays, still going live July 1, 2020
 - B. Parking and Transit Updates – Gary Smith
 - C. Reduced parking patrol staff still on campus
 - 1. Monitoring ADA, reserved, and garage parking spaces
 - D. Transit is operating with essential routes only: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday – Saturday
 - 1. Most routes on an hourly schedule, some on 30-minute schedules

- a. Buses are being rotated several times a day for cleaning and sanitizing
 - b. Use the *Passio GO!* app for real-time updated times and routes
 - 2. Only nine people allowed on a bus at one time
 - a. Additional buses, transport vans are provided for overload passengers instead of having to wait another hour at the stop
- VI. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve Staff Senate March meeting minutes
- VII. Committee Reports
 - A. Communication – Roy Cordell
 - 1. Please be sure to reach out to constituents and let them know that Staff Senate is here for them if anybody is having any communication issues or missing information
 - 2. COVID-19 website is updated almost minute by minute
 - B. Elections – Colleen Whitman
 - 1. Senate members whose terms are expiring have made contact
 - a. Nominations survey will be ready shortly
 - i. A link will be sent when the survey is ready
 - ii. Newswire article is ready to be published when the nomination survey is available
 - iii. Employees will have three days up to a week to submit nominations for Staff Senate
 - C. Legislative – Devyn Moore
 - 1. New bills have been passed due to COVID-19
 - a. Families First Coronavirus Response Act
 - i. Provides paid sick leave to employees of covered employers for COVID-19 related absences
 - ii. COVID-19 testing will be covered in full with no co-payment for covered employees
 - iii. More detailed information can be found at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>
 - b. Waivers to expand qualifications for SNAP are in effect
 - i. Work requirements for SNAP have been suspended until the end of the calendar year
 - c. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act – CARES Act
 - i. Passed to address the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - ii. Requires all private health insurance plans to cover all COVID-19 testing and treatments
 - iii. Employers can provide up to \$5,250 tax-free student loan benefits to employees
 - 1. Would not count as taxable income for the employee
 - 2. 2019 tax deadline has been moved from April 15 to July 15
 - 3. Stimulus payments
 - a. Individuals making \$75,000 or less will qualify for the full \$1,200
 - i. Qualifying individuals with children under the age of 18 will receive \$1,200 with an additional \$500 for each dependent child claimed

Senators in Attendance

Ben Pollock

Denise Bignar

Alex Booth

Erin Butler

Collin Reed Caley

Roy Cordell

Michela Cupello

EmmaLe Davis

Katie Doughty

Trisha DuCote

Danielle Dunn

Matthew Fey

Rachel Gray

Cecilia Grossberger-Medina

Clayton Hamilton

Derrick Hartberger

Travis Hefley

Joe Loy

Madelyn Jones

Matthew Meyers

Cedar Middleton

Devyn Moore

Autumn Parker

Theresa Parrish

Allen Porter

Michael Rau

Stephen Ritterbush

Elon Turner

Trish Watkins

Kelly Westeen

Colleen Whitman

Jessica Kivett

Cindy Ryan

Senators Not in Attendance

Raymond Anders

Daniela Kidd

Cindy Morley

Jeremy McAtee

Quincy Ward