2020-04-09

Minutes Staff Senate Meeting, April 9, 2020

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Staff Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uark.edu/staff-senate-minutes

Citation

This Periodical is brought to you for free and open access by the Staff Senate at ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in Staff Senate Meeting Minutes by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact scholar@uark.edu.
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/rfcra-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
b. Couples making $150,000 per year or less will qualify for the full $2,400
   i. Qualifying married couples with children under the
      age of 18 will receive $3,400 with an additional
      $500 for each dependent child claimed

c. No individual making over $98,000 a year qualifies for any stimulus
   payments
   i. Individuals making between $75,000 and $98,000
      will receive decreased stimulus amounts

4. Unemployment benefits have been expanded, and eligibility has broadened
   significantly
   a. Providing $600 per week in addition to the state unemployment benefit
      up to 4 months
   b. Adds 13 weeks of unemployment insurance for individuals that are
      close to their current benefit

D. Scholarships - EmmaLe Davis
   1. Scholarship applications will be available no later than May 1, 2020, and will
      close the first Friday in June

VIII. Old Business
   A. Consideration of Resolution on the eligibility of Division of Agriculture staff to serve on
      the University of Arkansas Staff Senate – Resolution 2020-01
      1. The Division of Agriculture staff will no longer eligible to serve in University
         of Arkansas – Fayetteville Staff Senate as of July 1, 2020
         a. A motion was made for resolution 2020-01
         i. A discussion was held regarding resolution 2020-01
         b. The motion was seconded and passed for resolution 2020-01

IX. Officer nominations are now open
   A. Officer nominees must accept the nomination

X. Chair’s Report – Trish Watkins
   A. Union events have been canceled through May 2020
   B. May and June student orientation will be virtual for 2020
      1. Hoping for August orientation to be back on campus
   C. All Summer 2020 events for admissions have been canceled
   D. Spring 2020 graduates have been invited to walk during fall 2020 commencement
   E. Priority registration for summer sessions opened on April 6, 2020
   F. Full Circle Food Pantry is now open for pick-ups and needs donations
   G. Walmart Shareholders Meeting will not be held on campus this year
      1. Transitioned to a virtual meeting
   H. Drop deadline for classes has been moved to the last day of classes for spring 2020
   I. A discussion was held regarding this year’s Staff Picnic
      1. Possibly canceled
      2. Other ideas or suggestions are appreciated

XI. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn at 10:31 a.m.
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