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
 - 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 copayment for covered employees
 - iii. More detailed information can be found at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffc ra-employee-paid-leave
 - b. Waivers to expand qualifications for SNAP are in effect
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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 be 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



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