

Staff Senate Minutes  
May 11, 2023, 10:00AM  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

- I. The meeting was called to order by chair, Roy Cordell at 10:03 a.m.
- II. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the agenda.
- III. Roll Call – Myrlinda Soedjede
- IV. Campus Updates
  - a. Human Resources Updates –Melinda Allen on behalf of Michelle Hargis Wolfe
    - i. Total Rewards is busy right now
      1. Merit guidelines went out last week
        - a. What merit increases and lump sum payments are
        - b. No COLA this year – all merit
        - c. Broken down through faculty, and a separate page for GAs along with new GA assistantship minimums
      2. This week, they sent out the classified to non-classified communication regarding changes effective July 1
    - ii. Provisional renewals due to ADHE
      1. Critical to get that information back. There are 750 provisional staff on campus, and they need to know which positions will continue and which can be provided back to campus
    - iii. Will meet with the chancellor soon for PSR approvals
    - iv. Questions/Discussion
      1. The Time in Position part of the new pay scale
        - a. Merit is applied first
        - b. New entry rate
        - c. Time and position rate increase. If you've been in your role at least three years, you'll get an additional increase to help with compression
          - i. Based on exact date and forecasted to July 1
      2. If person hired now, they will still get the rate increase July 1
      3. There is both a merit increase to our base pay and a one-time payment, correct?
        - a. Yes
      4. So if someone went from an Assistant position to a Director position within the same department but have only been in that role for 1 year, they would not qualify?
        - a. Correct, you have to be in the same position
  - b. Parking and Transit Updates – Gary Smith – Not in attendance and did not provide updates
- V. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the April minutes.
- VI. Treasurer's report – Wayne Bell
  - a. Wayne put the report in the Teams chat.
- VII. Committee Reports
  - a. Elections – Elizabeth Miller
    - i. As of yesterday, officer nominations closed – called for additional nominations. There were none.
    - ii. The officer election will be at the June meeting. If you can't be there, please vote absentee. The only election will be for secretary between Vince Capps and Myrlinda Soedjede.
      1. We are able to vote absentee now. Candidates will be able to make a statement at the meeting, or we can provide our statements in writing.
    - iii. A motion was made, seconded and passed to close the nominations.

- b. Legislative – Jen Boyer
    - i. Nothing directly legislative. Still trying to get Rebeca Haley or Randy Massanelli from Government Relations to speak to Staff Senate, but it may be in the fall. Trying to get them to speak about our civic rights and responsibilities as University employees.
    - ii. Reported on a committee she serves on – Health and Occupational Safety Committee
      - 1. Put in the chat a PDF file with resources and where to report:
        - a. Facilities Management Environmental Health & Safety website: <https://enhs.uark.edu/>
        - b. Form to report accidents, injuries, and unsafe condition on campus (NOT worker’s comp form): <https://forms.uark.edu/xfp/form/391>
        - c. Staff Member for above resources: Danielle Best, [dbest@uark.edu](mailto:dbest@uark.edu)
        - d. Form to report a minor workplace injury (NOT worker’s comp form): <https://risk.uark.edu/resources/documents/incidentreport.pdf>
          - i. Complete even if you don’t have an injury that immediately needs to be addressed. It can become an issue later – good to go ahead and document just in case.
          - ii. Strongly encouraged to document any incident or potential injury
        - e. Worker’s Compensation Website: <https://risk.uark.edu/workers-compensation.php>
        - f. Staff Member for above resources: Valerie Pryor, [valeriep@uark.edu](mailto:valeriep@uark.edu)
      - iii. Questions/Discussion
        - 1. Accident report includes staff/faculty/students?
          - a. Yes, including visitors – any accidents on campus
- c. Special Events – Amy Shell
  - i. Asked people to sign up to volunteer for the picnic
  - ii. Laura Jacobs put it on the entire Strategic Operations Group calendars to participate
- VIII. New Business
  - a. N/A
- IX. Old Business
  - a. Campus Council Proposal – Roy Cordell
    - i. The Campus Council resolution to change membership to four groups of 12 (ASG, GPSC, Staff Senate and Faculty Senate) passed. The chancellor is planning to take it to President Bobbitt and the Board of Trustees. It is currently with Legal for review. Likely won’t be official until late fall 2023/early spring 2024 at the earliest
- X. Chair’s Report – Roy Cordell
  - a. Will need to replace staff on some of the Campus Council committees.
    - i. Some say that they should have staff members, and some request Staff Senators.
      - 1. It may be a goal for Campus Council to define better next year
    - ii. Roy will follow up with people
  - b. Ask staff to apply for scholarships. Last year, everyone who applied received one.
  - c. Housing has sent emails to Roy asking for volunteers for August move-in
    - i. Volunteers receive swag and free lunch
    - ii. Roy shared a flyer for everyone to share
  - d. Huron group is working on a news article with an FAQ regarding the Class/Comp project
    - i. They will need help sorting out position descriptions and working titles
  - e. Temporary manpower contract went through the RFP process – for campus general labor
    - i. Go to <https://hogbid.uark.edu/> to view all RFPs
    - ii. “Landscape and Grounds Contract Maintenance Services” RFP – to get more people to help with mowing and landscaping across campus

1. Haven't been able to hire enough employees to do it. Hoping to get a company to help.
- f. Questions/Discussion
  - i. UA Sys acquisition of University of Phoenix update
    1. The BOT declined to approve by a 5-4 vote with one abstention. Technically, President Bobbitt does not need BOT approval for it, but he may go along with the Board's decision.
  - ii. Vince will send an invitation within the next couple of weeks to the Campus Council members. Also, Trish and his tenure on the Council ends July 1, so feel free to ask them questions until then.
  - iii. Next fiscal year's meeting times will be the second Wednesdays of each month 3-4:30 pm. Vince has reserved a room in the CORD for the full year.
  - iv. What day do we need to hold for the retreat?
    1. July 12 – we are scouting locations.
- XI. Upcoming Meeting
  - a. June 8, 2023 – Unity House, Multi-purpose Room, 9:30am – 11:00am
- XII. Around the Senate
  - a. N/A
- XIII. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn at 11:03 a.m.

**Senators in attendance:** Wayne Bell, Karmen Boddie, Tony Boyd, Jen Boyer, Betsy Bushmiaer, Chris Butler, Erin Butler, Vince Capps, Roy Cordell, Michela Cupello, Tracy Deffebaugh, Kim Gillow, Derrick Hartberger, Travis Hefley, Alli Johnson, Elizabeth Miller, Autumn Parker, Ben Pollock, Allen Porter, Ashley Reeves, Kaitlyn Riggan, Stephen Ritterbush, Amber Roth, Cindy Ryan, Amy Shell, Myrlinda Soedjede, Trish Watkins, Carrie Whitmer

**Senators not in attendance:** Garry Butler