



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MINUTES

April 21, 2021

10:00 AM

ZOOM Conference Call

President	Allison Thompson
ATTENDEES	<p>Senators: Debbie Beaver, Mallory Benedetto, Benji Buffington, Mystee Burrell, Fernando Cordova, Dan DeJarnette, Leslie Exmeyer, Therese Filhiol, Andrew Hardee, Christie Hemphill, Robyn Jordan, Meagan Morris, Meghan Olinger, Melissa Rhodes, Lamont Windom, Hope Young</p> <p>Visitors: Tammy Anderson, Dr. Kelsey Bohl, Kristi Davis, Jason Dunavant, Marla Herrington, Joanna Hunter, Mark Johnson, Mark Labude, Alma Marjanovic, Sabrina McClain, Jamie Norris, Cheri Perkins, Noelle Prestridge, Jan Shows, Tom Torregrossa, Jimmy Waller, Shanette Washington, Sara Webb</p>
Excused	

President Thompson called the April 2021 meeting to order. Secretary Hemphill called roll. The motion to approve the March 2021 Staff Senate Meeting minutes was made by Senator Olinger and seconded by Senator Hardee.

President Thompson welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

Guest Speaker	Dr. Kelsey Bohl - Executive Director Marketing & University Communication
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Her team of 8 handles requests for the entire institution. They are responsible for marketing the university message through media relations such as publications, graphic designs, digital, and social media and the university's main social accounts. Individual departments, school, and RSOs may manage their own..

Statements/Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some of their Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID Communications • Majors Website – ulm.edu/majors • Fall Magazine • Spring 2021 magazine • Take-Flight • Ace on Podcast • Construction Video • Best on the Bayou YouTube video • President's Website • Warhawk Weekly • Why ULM News Letters • Press Releases • Social Media • Giving Day • Press Conferences • Super Warhawk Weekend ➤ Both UPD and the Marketing department handle the severe weather related emails. UPD is notify of weather and OMC will notifies faculty, staff, and students of weather and a closure, if decided. ➤ ULM color codes can be found on the Brand Style Guide on the website; ulm.edu/omc/
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Continuing Business

- **Communication Committee** - Senator Beaver – Currently working on the Facebook page. Waiting on results from the survey for the Facebook slogan.
- **Staff Welfare Committee** – Senator Hemphill – No updates at this time.
- **Handbook Committee** – President Thompson – Staff Handbook draft has been sent to Dr. Graves and Melissa Ducote with a request that it be reviewed and approved no longer than July 1, 2021.
- **Constitution and Bylaws Committee** – Senator DeJarnette - No updates at this time.
- **Election Committee** – Senator Rhodes – Please encourage peers and co-workers within your department to vote in the upcoming senate elections.

New Business

- Discussion of the Louisiana House of Representatives appropriations hearing about Higher ED budget for the year: Governor Edwards included in his budget proposal dedicated funds for faculty salary increases to work our Higher ED faculty closer to SREB average. Conversation between Rep. Marcel and Dr. Kim Hunter Reed pointed out that faculty and classified staff have pay increases funded in the Governor’s proposed budget, while adjustments for unclassified staff are not funded.
 - We have received no official guidance on the governor’s proposed budget. The other thing to keep in mind is we have a lot of Cares money that was handed to us from the government. As of a couple of days ago we have not received no official guidance on how we can use these funds.
 - President Thompson reached out to President Berry regarding the concerns of the staff members who have reached out to her. Dr. Berry emailed back and stated he is committed on salary increases for all.
 - Senator Filhiol asked, as Staff Senate should draft a letter for resolution representing unclassified staff. President Thompson will create a draft to keep until May in the event things have not changed by then.
- Kristi Davis stated that the pay plan for staff has to be covered by the institution. In the past, it was worked into the budget.
- Senator DeJarnette is leaving the university to work at VCOM. We will need to appoint a staff member to fill his seat for Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the remaining of his term. Sara Webb from the Student Success center has agreed to fill the remaining of Senator DeJarnette term. A motion to approve her appointment was made by Senator Hemphill and seconded Senator DeJarnette.
- There is a new project on campus called Women Take Flight. They were awarded funding from the Board of Regents.
- Construction on The Hub will start in June.

Adjournment

There being no other business, a motion was made by Senator Olinger to adjourn, seconded by Senator Rhodes.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. with Senators meeting in person or via Zoom and guests attending via Zoom.