



# STAFF SENATE MINUTES

**July 28, 2021 10:00 am Library Conference Room 622/Zoom**

<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Senators: Greg Andrews, Mallory Benedetto, Benji Buffington, Mystee Burrell, Fernando Cordova, Ginger Ezell, Therese Filhiol-Secretary, Andrew Hardee-Parliamentarian, Joanna Hunter, Robyn Jordan, Meagan Morris, Meghan Olinger-Vice President/President Elect, Melissa Rhodes-President, Allison Thompson-Past President, Nicole Walker, Sara Webb, Hope Young</p> <p>Visitors: Steven Burnside, Kelli Cole, Kelly Gentry, Seth Hall, Cathi Hemed, Christie Hemphill, Jeanie Johnson, Tayran Jones, Alma Marjanovic, Jamie Norris, Cheri Perkins, Noelle Prestridge, Jeanette Robinson, Gary Russ, Ashley Taylor, Tom Torregrossa</p>
<b>Excused</b>	Kristal Anzalone, Jimmy Waller
<b>Call to Order</b>	<p>July 2021 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Rhodes</p> <p>Roll taken by Secretary Filhiol</p> <p>Visitors welcomed by President Rhodes</p>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Motion by Senator Benedetto to approve the Minutes of the June 2021 meeting</p> <p>Seconded by Senator Ezell</p>
<b>Guest Speaker</b>	<p><b>Seth Hall, Chief Strategy Officer</b></p> <p>Mr. Hall is working on development of a new Strategic Plan; the current one expires at the end of 2021. He will be working with Athletics to develop their plan. He will also work with politicians to find funding for special academic projects on campus and with a group on campus to make ULM a great place to work.</p> <p>The process this Fall for the Strategic Plan is to build on the success ULM has achieved so far. Three different visioning meetings will be held for attendees to share their views on where ULM should go, what areas need attention, etc., which will be open to all faculty, staff, and external community members. Two driving questions for the planning phase are “where do we play?” and “how do we succeed?” After the mission and vision conversations, sub-committees will be established to develop objectives and offer strategies for the areas identified as needing attention. This new plan is meant to be a living document with that will be assessed every two years. Areas that Mr. Hall has identified as possible focal points are: student success, enrollment, academics, athletics, and community service/engagement.</p> <p>In the area of work place improvement, one example is establishing a walking lap on campus. Another area is spotlighting faculty and staff members who’ve achieved something noteworthy in an effort to foster innovation. In the area of community engagement, possibilities for getting employees involved in the community are being investigated. There should be an announcement soon of some new things coming to campus.</p> <p>Mr. Hall is looking forward to input and feedback from stakeholders on campus. He encouraged Senators to email him their ideas for campus improvements. After his presentation, several Senators shared ideas for possible enhancements to the walking experience on campus. He encouraged all to email him with these ideas. Elaborating on where we play, the idea is to identify our competitors – whether internal or external – and keep our efforts focused accordingly. For instance, do we remain a health sciences university, or do we think more broadly about our placement? In the community, do we try to become a university town? These are discussions that go toward identifying our brand.</p>

**Reports of Committees**

**Communications** – Our Facebook page has been requested. Hoping the page to be up by the end of the week.

**Welfare** – Wellness initiatives to be developed can be discussed after the start of Fall. A water filling station has been installed in Sandel Hall like the one in the Library. Another one is soon to be installed in the Student Success Center.

**Handbook** – Published as of July 8, 2021 on the Staff senate page and the HR home page. If anyone sees a correction, email the Committee Chair.

**Constitution & Bylaws** – The Committee Chair shared a shortened version of Roberts Rules of Order, and he will give additional updates in New Business.

**Elections** – Not active at this time, but has been helping out with the new Bylaws document

**Unfinished Business**

**Updates from President Rhodes:**

- Budget - ULM's budget will be submitted to the UL System Board at their August meeting. ULM's submission includes a plan for giving raises. President Rhodes referred everyone to Dr. Berry's email of July 19.
- Staff Senate Shirts – There is currently an apparel shortage, making the shirt search difficult. The intention is still to provide shirts when they become available.
- Outreach – a group of Senators worked with Ryan Peterson, Mister ULM, at a local nonprofit center in June to distribute food, clothing, and other necessary items to the needy in the community.

**New Business**

- The Staff Senate Constitution and Bylaws have been merged into one document. Parliamentarian Hardee presented the Bylaws Revision Proposal on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee and highlighted several important changes that have been made. Senators now have a draft copy to examine, and Senator Hardee, committee chair, will email links to the document so that Senators can give their feedback. The documents will be distributed electronically for Senators to review and make suggested edits. It will updated as needed until August 11, and then a final draft will be sent to Senators prior to the vote on adoption at the August Staff Senate Meeting. Any edits or changes identified after August 11 will need to be submitted at the August meeting for discussion and consideration.
- Senator Young brought concern expressed to her by a staff member regarding the CDC guidelines during increased community spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, pointing out that Ouachita Parish is in the highest bracket for community spread. The staff member wanted to know what the guidelines are on campus. Various Senators pointed out that ULM's COVID-19 webpage is current in regard to guidelines.
- President Rhodes shared information about Investiture Week at the end of September, which will be planned to honor investiture in conjunction with the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the university. She encouraged everyone to be sure to attend as many of the events of that week as possible.

**Adjournment**

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

The next meeting will be August 18, 2021 at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622. Guests may attend via Zoom.