

## Meeting Notes



**Date: 8/14/2025**

**Time: 10:01**

### **Attendance:**

- II. Joe Benyish, Candace Henry, Heather Kidd, Shannon James, Kelly Cowger, Cyndi Funkhouser, Donna Knopf, JJ Remo, Lisa Gray, Megan Raymond, Frank Bowen, Dave Gutoskey, Mary Catherine Taylor, Anthony Sanchez, Lindsey Ward
- III. Absent-Steve Blankenship

**Location:** GAC 401

**Approval of July Meeting Minutes;** Candance motioned, Frank seconded, minutes approved.

### **Staff Senate Reports:**

SS President-Joe Benyish

- Staff Senate Leadership meeting-Updates from Aurora
- Ask questions submitted through Teams live
- Send questions for president/Aurora/HR to Joe by Monday prior to upcoming meeting
- Faculty Senate advisory minutes-contract issues for faculty, questioning PD and how it is divvied out to faculty, increase in faculty senate as start of semester approaches
- Forward FS minutes to SS
- July retreat committee chairs elected, see chairs below, Candace-membership, Heather, engagement, Joe, outreach, Shannon, HR
- 2 people assigned to each committee but can serve on more than one
- **HR committee**-HR related things, feedback on policies (ex: telework), EOM, etc. **Outreach committee**-may refer issues to HR committee, leading charge for outreach process, 8 times frames for staff to attend. **Membership/Elections**-spring semester work, bylaw changes, run election process, recruitment for elections, constructing ballot. **Engagement**-snack and chats, EAD, year round engagement (HH, etc). Committees should have one meeting between each SS meeting. Not assign anyone to Membership/elections till spring. Candace sent form,



created

**STAFF SENATE**

members asked to rank committees by interest. SS July 1, 2000. 25 year anniversary.

- Kelly read list of outreach assignments.

### **CUSS Report: Shannon James**

- Letter to Governor-
- Special Session-additional cuts
- DOJ-Change of name at UMCP of Diversity & Inclusion due to letter from DOJ. New name Belonging and Community.
- Workday difficulties, TU going to Oracle
- Kelly elected as Member at Large

### **Committee Reports:**

HR Committee-Lisa Gray

- Workday issues assigned to HR committee
- Summer hours survey assigned to HR committee

Engagement-Kelly Cowger

- EAD survey assigned to engagement committee.

Outreach- JJ Remo

- Create a template email to send to SS representees
- Need updated list from HR of who is represented by SS and non-bargaining

Membership & Elections-Steve Blakenship

- Absent

### **Special Guests:**

#### **a. 11am – Jason Curtin: Centennial**

- i. Committees, subcommittees, volunteers doing a ton of work.
- ii. Key dates- Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>-Centennial Plaza open, campus cheers event. Aug 26<sup>th</sup>- Social Room Reveal. Private donor reception 430-5. 5 open to everyone. Cabinet working through usage policy. Sept 6 –Gala-fundraising event, ticketed event. 228 people, 10-12 sponsors. Hoping to net \$100,000 to go into centennial fund. Sept 7<sup>th</sup>-Fun Fest in the Nest., over 100 activities all



## **STAFF SENATE**

over  
Dogwood  
10<sup>th</sup>-

Panel in

additional speakers, Sandy Fitzgerald November 4<sup>th</sup>. Panel on founders of Rise up. Alum who created Bing. Someone from Commanders. Goal 6-8 speakers throughout the year. Oct 7<sup>th</sup>-100 photo during homecoming weekend, on HH lawn. Seagull Century centennial spin. Homecoming and Family weekend Oct 10-12. Other events still being finalized. Keep eye on SU Today/Tuesday Report for more info. Events can still be planned for centennial. Naab Center display, swag in bookstore. If staff would like to see something bring that forward. Athletic teams will have centennial patch. 1000lb trees for centennial plaza.

campus, ferris wheel in  
lot, private sponsored. Sept  
speaker series Presidential  
Assembly Hall. Working on

**b. 11:15am – Eric Stewart: President's Office**

- i. Strategic planning process-no updates yet, good progress being made. Much larger update during State of University address, Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. Busy in Annapolis-operating and capital budget testimony. Advocating for Performing Arts Center. Looking for more SU involvement. May call on faculty and staff to represent university.
- iii. More outreach to alumni
- iv. Strategic innovation fund-no decision just yet. Anticipating another mid-year cut in the fall but do not know how much or when.
- v. Pickleball courts will open in a few days. Will host official opening. Access-no card access yet. Need to discuss further with Athletic Director.
- vi. Fall enrollment trending high, beneficial budget impact. 1% up equal to about 1 million dollars. Help to round out budget for the year. Predicting 1.9% up, would put closer to 2 million dollars.

**c. 11:30am – Sherri Reese: Human Resources**

- i. Policies being worked on-telework, leave bank, emergency fund. Other tasks, position management process and all other programs (benefits, etc). Telework to come out first, others to follow
- ii. Employee Leave Bank
  - ☐ HR Committee will meet with Sherri to discuss further.
- iii. Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund
  - ☐ SU Helps You
  - ☐ Faculty, staff and contingent employees are eligible. Must have exhausted all other means (community resources, etc). No disciplinary action in last 12 months
  - ☐ \$1000 max in 12 month period
  - ☐ May assist with food insecurity, housing expenses, transportation, medical expenses
  - ☐ Excludes recurring monthly expenses



- ☐ Application on HR site
- ☐ Due to confidentiality committee will consist of 5

member from HR and payroll

- ☐ Funds will be distributed through payroll and are tax exempt
- ☐ 5 day max turn around period
- ☐ Announcement will be made at Centennial plaza opening
- ☐ Program go live date is January 2026, foundation will provide matching funds and the fund will be an option on giving day
- ☐ Communication needs to be intentional and regular so that all staff and faculty are aware of the fund and so that the program is not forgotten about. Flyers, QR codes, placed at the bottom of recurring emails (Friday's with the Flock)

#### iv. New Hire Orientation

- ☐ Rollout in September, will be offered bi-weekly and is a full day program
- ☐ Working on how to invite new employees and also employees who are newish, possibly back to one year past hire date, maybe longer. Ensuring consistency of presenters. Pre-boarding email will be sent that will be followed up on at onboarding. Call may come out for orientation ambassadors.

## Old Business

SS Website-Heather Kidd

- Did not get to topic

## New Business

- a. Committee Membership Sheets
  - i. Did not get to topic
- b. New Headshots
  - i. No notes needed
- c. Summer Hours Survey
  - i. Assigned to HR committee
- d. EAD Survey
  - i. Assigned to Engagement committee
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## Staff Concerns & Suggestion Box

- Did not get to topic

**Other Topics**

- None

**Adjournment: Motion to**

-12:13PM



**adjourn-**