

## Meeting Notes



**Date: 1/8/2026**

**Time: 10:01**

**Attendance:** Heather Kidd, Lisa Gray, Candace Henry, Anthony Sanchez, Lindsey Ward, Frank Bowen, JJ Remo, Dave Gutoskey, Donna Knopf, Mary Taylor, Steven Blankenship, Joe Benyish, Cyndi Funkhouser, Kelly Cowger, Shannon James

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

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

### **Staff Senate Reports:**

SS President-Joe Benyish

- Will there be a formal announcement regarding provost? Yes, there will be communication. Communication went out at 430PM on 1/7.
- Update on budget-no updates at this time, budget usually drops last week of January, should have better picture of what to expect.
- What are we watching this legislative session: hoping they stay away from challenging legislation for higher education. SU Advocacy Day- working on a date and space.
- Christmas Eve-will follow up with the president, governor declared holiday, SU already had off.
- General Counsel, had one campus, hoping to have someone in place by late February.
- VP Student Affairs-will have open sessions
- Square will go under construction this semester, extra parking where the art house was.
- President will be spending a lot of time in Annapolis and with donors for funding for Performing Arts center and CHHS building.
- MD Charities-SU 161% goal.
- Sherri Reese (VPHR) is leaving at the end of January, possibly others who will be leaving HR also.

SS VP-Candance Henry

- First day back, no updates.

## **CUSS Report:**

- No updates, meeting



next Tuesday at UMB.

## **Committee Reports:**

HR Committee-Lisa Gray

- No, the meeting was cancelled this week due to illness, and we will meet next week.

Engagement-Kelly Cowger

- Spring engagement-publications request for snack and chat email, everyone got calendar invite. Tuesday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, IT led session. April 6<sup>th</sup>, Campus Safety. All info to go out in one email.
- Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> - Happy Hour at Hoppers. Day of service, April 18<sup>th</sup>-Saturday
- SS ramp build on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Service for SS does not always have to be ramp build, if anyone has other ideas let Joe know. Halo is an opportunity, reach out to volunteer center at CSIL, athletes serve breakfast at Halo. Will circle back to opportunities
- "A note from staff senate" will be linked to website
- Viva engage on hold until 26-27

Outreach- JJ Remo

- Working on dates for spring semester opportunities, once dates are determined, the session will be outlined. Possibly town hall at the end of March or April. The State of the University is March 11 at 3pm, would like to wait until after that to schedule outreach.
- Strategic plan work groups are still meeting, should go back to president after that and to campus community for review.

Membership & Elections-Steve Blakenship

- CUSS seat, need to send interest email from SS account, once there is interest, simple process.
- A person will fill a seat for 6 months. Discussion on holding off on filling seat, should we wait, or should we move forward. Dave made a motion to suspend a special election, Candace second. Motion was passed to hold on filling seat until election time in spring.
- Mary Catherine and Anthony up for reelection, Kelly for CUSS, open seat for CUSS, Heather and JJ up for reelection. Contingents are elected every year. 2 CUSS 2 exempt and 2 contingents, no non-exempts

## **Old Business**

SS Website-Heather Kidd



- SS site is live, review feedback. Senators for web office to
  - Possibly create a meeting.
  - Should campus announcements go out about new site? Yes, but want to wait until minutes are loaded.
  - Could we add a gallery to show all of the events to show activities throughout the year? Record virtual events to post to site. Add header for past events.
- and provide Heather link to directory, easiest way manage.  
recap section for each

#### Maroon & Gold Friday's/Spirit Squad-Dave Gutoskey/Joe Benyish

- Need to address additional details. Maybe send it out in a way that people let us know how they are participating.
- Suggestion, roll out at the start of lacrosse season. Bring a shirt to bookstore to trade for an SU shirt for a discount. Post on website to promote year-round.
- Announcement on January 30<sup>th</sup>?
- Clear on rules for trading shirts, what will happen to shirts traded in? Can be donated to Sammy's Stash or Salvation Army, could also be recycled. Bring in a clean shirt that is college branded and receive a 20% discount on SU clothes.

#### Staff who Soar-

- Going well, the group will meet soon to evaluate December nominees.
- Going really well, receiving a lot of nominations. Sticking with choosing 5. Even if nominated and not chosen, you should receive a notification that you were nominated.
- Gull patrol delivers tumbler and news that they won.
- Being mindful of introverted people could be a lot for them. Could HR talk with supervisor to determine if someone may not want the Gull Patrol?

#### New Business

##### Employee Appreciation Day brainstorm

- Staff who Soar-add to PowerPoint presentation. Switch morning and afternoon activities
- Activities to continue-paint class (art faculty to possibly lead) and we buy the supplies, arboretum tour, yoga (SU instructor, room 206), ping pong tournament, president activity, tie-dye t-shirts/sling bag, grab and go, petting zoo, sand art, air brush tattoos, photo booth
- New activities- bingo (afternoon), line dancing,
- Survey suggestions-mozzarella sticks and corndogs, tickets to sporting event, healthier food, volleyball tournament,



- Food-Commons use the Bistro Diamond catering, get the menu and cost. If catering is too costly, dining will work to figure something out.
  - Take back to engagement committee and draft the day
- will not be open, will have to room, working with Black will forward to Joe once we cost. Will evaluate based on

### **Staff Concerns & Suggestion Box**

- None

### **Other Topics**

- SS awards-have event for all winners not at EAD

**Adjournment: Motion to adjourn**-Frank, Lisa seconds. 11:33