

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Virtual via Teams due to inclement weather

PRESIDING: Tyson Lusk, President

Call to Order – Tyson Lusk, President

President Lusk officially called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. President Lusk welcomed staff senators and visitors to the staff senate meeting. He reminded attendees that only staff senators are permitted to speak during the meeting.

Roll Call/Attendance Report - Katherine Hilson, Secretary

Secretary Hilson checked the roll after taking attendance. According to the attendance report, 46 senators were in attendance virtually, 7 senators were absent, and no senators gave proxies.

Establish Quorum – Chris Burkett, Parliamentarian

Based on the attendance report, Secretary Hilson declared a quorum was established and Parliamentarian Burkett declared business could be conducted.

Approval of Minutes – Tyson Lusk, President

There were no changes to the December 12, 2023, staff senate meeting minutes. Senator Chambers made a motion to accept the December 12, 2023, general body staff senate minutes as written. Senator Christopher seconded the motion to accept the minutes as written. All senators were in favor. The motion was adopted and carried, and the minutes were accepted as written.

Reports of Officers:

Tyson Lusk, President

- President approved budget for Staff Appreciation Day to be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.
 - Thank you to our current Treasurer Brown and our previous Treasurer Leslie on all of your hard work in making this come to life and for advocating for the funds from the President.
- Meeting was held with Government Relations staff regarding resolution to be reviewed by SC General Assembly.
- President Amiridis and VP Agardy will address the Staff Senate at our February meeting.
- Staff Ombudsperson Robynn Pease will begin work on January 16 and a University wide email will be sent announcing the hire.
- Senator Jason Cone has volunteered to serve as Co-Chair of the Staff Policy and Well-Being committee.
- Executive Officer elections are forthcoming, please be sure to reach out to any member of the Executive Committee and consider running for a position.
- We will continue to share more about the date and information about the appreciation event for all USC staff.

- Budget framework for Staff Mental Health spaces throughout campus. Hoping for three different spaces so there is convenience for all staff members.
- Update that Senator Christopher is moving to the Bylaws Committee. If you are interested in serving on the Professional Development Committee as co-chair, please reach out to Senator Christopher and Senator Doran.
- The Spring Provost Retreat is this Friday, we encourage you to register to attend if you are available.

Reports of Committees:

Membership: William Boland/Julia Hodge

- Apportionment Proposal
 - Discussed status – waiting on feedback from Executive Committee before moving forward
 - Received updated staff numbers from HR on January 8 (ready to use if new apportionment is approved)
- Elections
 - Reviewed prior year’s election timeline and duties
 - Discussed our next steps for this year’s officer and general elections
 - For officer elections – confirmed with Executive Committee that we will hold a recorded, virtual Q&A panel for interested senators
 - January – announcement for officer elections
 - February – solicitation for those interested
 - March – officer elections
 - For general elections – begin reviewing numbers and open seats with Jessica McKie in January

Communications: Thom Harman/Michaela Taylor

- Continuing to collect information on staff communications across the university.
- Regular staff senate email recaps have started. Will send the Tuesday following every meeting.
- If any committee has updates to their bylaws that need to be updated on the website, please share with Michaela Taylor and/or Thom Harmon to update the Staff Senate website.

Staff Policy and Well-Being: Beth Herron/Jason Cone

- Thank you Jason for volunteering to be our new co-chair!
- Liam Hine who is the Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee in Faculty Senate joined us and we talked about collaboration for parking and building access.
- We discussed other mutual issues and are hopeful to continue conversation about more ways to collaborate.

Community Projects: Toni Karl/Amanda Minnet

- The Community Projects Committee closed out the Fall semester by delivering all school supplies collected to both the Student Success Center at USC, and to Kayla Stephens with Hand Middle School.

- We are still collecting pop-tabs for Ronald McDonald House, and so far, it looks like we will reach our goal of 100 pounds!
- As a committee, we decided to cancel our December Teams meeting due to many members being out of the office for the holidays but will start the new year with conversations geared towards making an impact on campus and in the community in Spring 2024.

Professional Development: Georgia Doran/Rebecca Christopher

- Had a great discussion with VP Tolliver yesterday of having a panel discussion of people who have transitioned internally as a professional development opportunity.
- Collaborating with OPD Office of ways we can develop more as staff members whether in our current roles or in our future role.
- Nicole Vaughn requested to present to the Staff Senate General Body this summer.
- Planning on putting together a survey for Senators to share feedback.

By-Laws: Julia Bellon/Marissa Buck

- The Bylaws Committee submitted all approved Bylaw changes approved by the Staff Senate.
- The Communications Committee updated the website and the Bylaws Committee confirmed the changes were correct.

Staff Senate Awards and Recognition Committee: Bridget Leslie

- The Awards and Recognition Committee 's next meeting is Thursday, January 18th where we will begin discussions on how to increase the number of awards, if possible and develop possible scholarships for staff.
- Committee Chair has a meeting with the Director of Revenue Contract Management and Support to discuss the use of the Carolina Card during our Staff Senate Staff Recognition Day on Wednesday, January 24th.
- Last, now that the legislators are back in session beginning the week of 1/8, we have verbally and electronically sent a friendly reminder to the Director of State Government Relations of our request needed for the joint resolution.

Staff Senate Scholarship/Fundraising Committee: Chelsey Malloy/Wright Culpepper

- No report this month.

Additional Announcements

- Senator McCormick – I wanted to reiterate my appreciation for the communications template. Thank you again for putting this together and sharing with us.
- Senator Hodge – I know a lot of you all are Alums of the College of Education, we have our second annual Champions of Education Gala. It's a great day and we honor educators throughout the state and would love for you to join us! COE Awards Gala Thursday, March 28. Tickets are \$75 before February 1.
- Senator Chambers - Spring sports are starting, so we encourage you to attend USC sporting events!

Upcoming meetings:

- 2/13 – General Body Meeting – Guest President Amiridis
- 3/12 - General Body Meeting
- 4/9 - General Body Meeting

Adjourn

Senator Harmon made a motion to adjourn. Senator Hodge seconded the motion to adjourn. All senators were in favor. The formal meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 13, at 3:00 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Hilson

Secretary
Staff Senate