

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

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, 41 senators were in attendance, 11 senators were absent, 3 senators were online, 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 February 13, 2024, staff senate meeting minutes. Senator Boland made a motion to accept the February 13, 2024, general body staff senate minutes as written. Senator Bellon 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

- Staff health and wellness - budget allocation of \$500,000 for staff health and wellness programs. This will be housed under student affairs. New opportunity to reimagine program. Staff can also get blood panel completed at University Health Services.
- Staff ombudsperson - hopeful to have new confirmed space for staff Ombuds in next couple of weeks. Will update as we know more!
- Staff Award/Appreciation Day - rsvp link forthcoming! Parliamentarian Burkett made a comment that our current Bylaws do not accurately portray the three-year appointment of Executive Vice President rolling up to President and eventually to the role of Past President. This is currently under review and Bylaws will submit a proposed update soon.

Executive Committee Candidate Speeches:

- Chris Burkett - Executive Vice President
- Rebecca Denisi - Treasurer
- Julia Hodge - Secretary
- Julia Bellon - Parliamentarian

Reports of Committees:

Membership: William Boland/Julia Hodge

- Officer Elections
 - Discussed timeline and duties
 - Held the Executive Committee information session and shared link with general body
 - Resent information to general body, including table below and link to officer nomination/application forms
 - [Staff Senate Officer Nomination form](#) – Due February 23, 2023
 - [Staff Senate Officer Application form](#) – Due February 29, 2023

Date	Task	Notes
January 31	Nominations/Applications open for officer positions	
February 20	Information session for interested candidates <u>Tuesday February 20 at 3:30 PM</u>	<u>TEAMS</u> -recording will be sent to senators
February 23	Nominations for officer positions close	
February 29	Last day to submit self-nomination/application form and accept (if you were nominated)	
March 5	Officer position slate presented to Executive Committee	
March 12	Staff Senate Meeting – Officer nominees will have the opportunity to speak on how they will contribute to advancing the mission, vision, and goals of the Staff Senate.	
March 13-19	Voting will take place for officer positions	Electronic system
March 20	Votes tallied by immediate past president	
March 21-22	Runoff elections in event of tie	
March 25	Candidates notified of election results	Ask candidates to keep confidential until the overall Senate meeting in April
April 2	Officer Election results approved/verified by Executive Committee	
April 9	Notify Senate body of election results	
April 12	University notification of election results	

- General Elections
 - Continued discussion of numbers and open seats with Jessica M
 - Expected open seats
 - 1 Development
 - 1 DMSB
 - 1 Research

- 2 Student Affairs
- 1 Academic Affairs & Provost Reporting
 - Others will open due to results of officer elections
- Election timeline will be March/April

Communications: Thom Harman/Michaela Taylor

- The Communications Committee is working on gathering data for communications across campus.
- We have produced the newsletter recap after each meeting and have received great feedback on that so far!
- Several of us are also serving on the comms committee for Staff Appreciation Day as well.

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

- HR is engaged with a consulting firm, Segal.
- They will be assisting HR across campus on service delivery.
- Caroline Agardy was able to attend a cabinet retreat and share information about staff turnover and metrics. And she noted the last time they did a climate survey was 2019.
- VP Agardy will now be on the President's Cabinet.
- Cocky cards – staff can share appreciation for each other.
- New office space for Staff Ombudsperson potentially off Senate St. to move there in May.
- Senator Rose was able to secure free parking for Staff Appreciation Day!
- Tomorrow, we have a meeting with VP Agardy regarding Class and Comp with a small focus group.

Professional Development: Georgia Doran/Travis Weatherford

- Dr. Anthony James, USC Office of Access and Opportunity, will be one of our April Staff Meeting speakers. Dr James is tasked with the development and facilitation of educational programs for students, faculty and staff that will promote understanding and increase engagement on diversity-related issues. You will all become familiar with his various programs and may want to schedule individual programs for your respective colleges. Special thanks to our PD Committee member, Senator DeLorenzo for coordinating this speaker!
- Still working to confirm Nicole Vaughn as a possible summer 2024 Speaker. Nicole will be able to update us all on the USC Office of Professional Development offerings prepared specifically for Staff.
- Discussion has begun on Fall 2024 speaker/training options. New senators will be assessed when elected in May to ascertain their interests.
- Nickie Buie, Asst Director of Mental Health Initiatives, has been suggested. She could provide us all with training to assist us with recognizing colleagues and students in crisis and what resources we have internally to support those in crisis.

Community Projects: Toni Karl/Amanda Minnet

- Collecting pop-tabs and we are doing great! We are excited to take them to RMH at the end of the semester. Go team! Every one of them counts.
- We will keep collecting these throughout the semester.

- We are still collecting items for the SSC. Look at this table full of supplies, there is still a need and thank you for what you've brought so far.
- The Big Event is on Saturday, March 30 and the deadline to register to participate is this Friday, so be sure to sign up!

By-Laws: Julia Bellon/Marissa Buck

- Received approval from the Executive Committee regarding the proposed change for Article V: Election Procedures and the first reading will be during the March 12, 2024 meeting.
- Received notification from the Executive Committee regarding re-apportionment options which might be coming from the Membership Committee.

Staff Senate Awards and Recognition Committee: Bridget Leslie

- The Awards and Recognition Committee are still working diligently to make this Staff Day event a memorable one!
- The save the date should be emailed Tuesday, March 12 or Wednesday, March 13 which includes a link to a form to capture RSVPs and USCID information to help with registration, food, and logistics.
- Also, a USC Staff Day event page has been developed on the Staff Senate's website—still under development. RSVP responses deadline is March 28th.
- Founders' Credit Union has agreed to be our primary sponsor with a donation of \$10,000.
- We have a sponsorship letter for senators to share with companies to request donations.
- Once the donation link is confirmed, we will send this letter to all senators to solicit giveaways.
- Requests for quotes is being sent to suppliers for decorations and entertainment.
- The timeline and call for nominations have been approved and hopefully nominations will open the week of March 18th.
- We are still looking for volunteers to join the awards nominations review sub-committee.
- Aramark should have a food proposal prepared this week.
- We had a follow-up meeting regarding Carolina Card usage on Thursday, March 7th
- Also, and this is another huge win, we have secured free parking for staff for the Staff Day.

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

- A week away from Give for Garnet, Staff Senate has a fund if you want to donate to it!
- And the scholarship we are starting for staff.
- We will be collaborating with Communications about getting information out to you all.

Senator Bellon, first reading of proposed Bylaws change

Current:

Article V: Election Procedures

Elections for vacant Staff Senate seats shall be held each March annually across the University. Elections will be managed by the Membership committee which will be advised by the immediate Past-President. (Reference: Article VII. Section 1B)

Proposed:

Article V: Election Procedures

Elections will be managed by the Membership Committee which will be advised by the Immediate Past President. (Reference: Article VII. Section 1B)

Additional Announcements

- The Gamecock Pantry – Dodie dining/repurpose extra food to go to the Gamecock Pantry.
- Out of Darkness walk with the American Suicide Prevention Foundation will host its walk on campus on April 13 at 9:45 AM.
- Look for an email regarding Officer Elections and reach out to Jessica McKie if you see any issues or have any questions.
- Shoutout to Senator Keller for all of her hard work during our WBB games!

Upcoming meetings:

- 4/9 - General Body Meeting
- 5/14 – General Body Meeting AND Staff Appreciation Day
- 6/11 – Last General Body Meeting for 2023-2024 Senate Year

Adjourn

Senator Epps made a motion to adjourn. Senator Denisi seconded the motion to adjourn. All senators were in favor. The formal meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 9, at 3:00 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Hilson
Secretary
Staff Senate