

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center
Zoom Meeting ID 945 0315 5890
February 2, 2023 – 9:00am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:02 am on Thursday, February 2, 2023 by President Keith Becherer.

Present: Keith Becherer, Kelly Jo Hendricks, Cindy Cobetto, Angie White, Denyse Anderson, Darryl Cherry, Carolyn Jason, Jan Caban, John Caupert, Sara Colvin, Anthony Fearon, Jackie Hayes, Doug James, Shane Kessinger, Kim Kilgore, Jared Loyd, John Milcic, Dusty Rhodes, Michael Tadlock (ex officio)

Excused: Mike Hamil, Anne Frosh, Collin Van Meter

Guests: Carl Chambers, Kedra Tolson, Jennifer Albat, Chrystal Anthony-Simms, Karen Ash, Angie Barclay, Michelle Black, Charlie Blake, Cameron Bowman, Monica Brooks, Chris Burcham, Florence Chars-Lawrence, Phyleccia Cole, Jennifer Cottingham, Laura Deason-Bequette, Robin Ermer, Rachel Garrett, Paula Geiger, Janet Haroian, Cheryl Jordan, Jennifer Mack, Patricia Merritt, Christopher McCawley, Jessica McCawley, Jeanette Parmenter, Earleen Patterson, Anna Pavlik, Patrick Sears, Jill Smucker, Brandon Stookey, Stephanie Stookey, Nancy Sullivan, Deb Talbot, Lisa Tate, Jennifer Wagner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the January 12, 2023 meeting was approved as written.

INVITED GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Kedra Tolson, Executive Director of University Marketing and Communications, introduced herself to Staff Senate. Ms. Tolson graduated from SIUE in 1994 and is excited to serve the University in her new role after obtaining over 25 years of experience within the MarCom field. Ms. Tolson brought up the evolution of the SIUE brand, which she was charged by Chancellor Minor to work on; MarCom has put together a couple versions of the updated logo for the SIUE community to vote on. Ms. Tolson brought up the vacancies within her department; she is working with MarCom staff to identify positions which could be merged or modernized. Ms. Tolson said she looks forward to returning to Staff Senate to learn more about the issues on campus.

Mr. Carl Chamber, Director of Human Resources, introduced himself to Staff Senate. Mr. Chambers graduated from SIUE in 1995 with a Bachelor's in Business/HR. Mr. Chambers started in January 2023 as the new Director of HR, and is hitting the ground running by trying to modernize and improve our processes—what are people using, and what can we do to improve things for new employees and current staff? Mr. Chambers stated his desire to “put the human back in Human Resources.” Mr. Chambers acknowledged the challenges related to wage compressions and other compensation/classification issues but admitted that we need adequate funding to appropriately address it. Mr. Chambers brought up the ongoing labor/union negotiations. The recent move from civil service exams to credential-based exams was briefly discussed, as was the move from the HR software HireTouch to Cornerstone, which will be implemented next month. Finally, Mr. Chambers addressed the current staff morale, and said he would like to not only have exit interviews, but also conduct stay interviews so we know why long serving employees have committed their career to SIUE.

REPORTS:

President Keith Becherer – Attended MLK event in January. The Constituency Heads met with Chancellor Minor on 1/24. Chancellor Minor said he wants the faculty to take responsibility for DFW rates. The enrollment projections for 2023-24 are trending down a bit. The IBHE press release, which previewed the Governor’s budget recommendations, show positive appropriations for higher education. Governor Pritzker’s budget address will be on February 15.

President-Elect Kelly Jo Hendricks – Huge thanks for grounds workers for their assistance during all of the inclement weather we’ve had within the last few weeks. Attended the Naturalization Ceremony last week; over 100 citizens were naturalized.

There were no other executive reports.

Executive Director of Chancellor’s Office search – the committee is reviewing applications. Hope to narrow it down to three on-campus finalists in mid-March. Looking to give a final recommendation to the Chancellor by the end of March.

School of Business Dean search – the search committee met twice and received its charge from the Provost. We are waiting on the final contracts for the search firm we will utilize (WittKieffer). The search committee co-chairs are Drs. Tim Jacks and Ariel Belasen.

There were no other reports.

ACTION ITEMS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Hendricks reminded Staff Senate that the upcoming Staff Senate election will take place on April 12, 2023. The following Staff Senator positions will be contested. Terms are for four (4) years, commencing July 2023. **FOUR (4) OPEN SEATS** for the Civil Service: Negotiated and Prevailing classification. **TWO (2) OPEN SEATS** for the Civil Service: Open Range/Confidential, Managerial, and Supervisory Exclusions classification. **ONE (1) OPEN SEAT** for the Administrative Staff: Represented classification. **TWO (2) OPEN SEATS** for the Administrative Staff: Non-Represented classification. Additionally, seats specifically representing the Alton and East St. Louis campuses will be contested. **ONE (1) OPEN SEAT FOR THE EAST ST. LOUIS CAMPUS** representing *either* the Civil Service: Open Range/Confidential, Managerial, and Supervisory Exclusions classification or Administrative Staff: Non-Represented classification. **TWO (2) OPEN SEATS FOR THE ALTON CAMPUS** representing *either* the Civil Service: Open Range/Confidential, Managerial, and Supervisory Exclusions classification or Administrative Staff: Non-Represented classification

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next SIU Board of Trustees meeting will take place on February 9, 2023 on the Edwardsville campus (in the MUC Conference Center).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

The March 2, 2023 Staff Senate meeting will take place at the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock, University Governance