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Staff Senate, September 8, 2020

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Staff Senate

September 8, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Note: The remarks of the senators and others are summarized and not verbatim. The recording of this meeting is available in the Staff Senate Secretary's office.

PRESENT: Sandra Baldrige-Adrian; Shaun Bannon; Dwayne Beam; Carolyn Bender; Jean Bennett; Allison Crandell; Amanda Darden; John Dooley; Mark Garrison; Dawn Hitchcock; Ebony McCray; Melanie McKeefery; Ashley Nance; Justin Poindexter; Wendy Singleton; Michele Varga; David Yancey; Travis Youngblood; Bobbi Yurkin

SUBSTITUTIONS: none

ABSENT: Judy Johns; Sharon McCants

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. David DeCenzo; Dr. Dan Ennis; Travis Overton; Kim Sherfese; David Frost; Carlos Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: approval of May minutes was moved by Jean Bennett and seconded by Michele Varga. **With one correction, the minutes passed (20 in favor, 0 not in favor, 0 abstain)**

SENATE PRESIDENT REMARKS: We are a lame duck session and will be having some new senators at the next meeting. Elections ended on September 6th and Institutional Research is helping tabulate the votes. The new senators will then vote for the new executive committee and choose the standing committee they would like to be on. A new step has been added this year where anyone nominated for the executive committee must submit written approval from their supervisor before votes can be cast.

PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

President DeCenzo:

- Today is the first day of in-person classes for this semester, we are excited about that.
- Fall enrollment was better than expected. If those numbers stay up for the Spring 2021 semester, at the October Board of Trustees meeting Dr. Decenzo will be asking if we can discontinue furloughs starting in January 2021. This is with the understanding that adjustments will have to be made for the employees who took their entire furlough in July.
- Going forward, the worst-case scenario for CCU would be an outbreak that we cannot handle through quarantine. Enrollment at all SC state colleges and universities was better than expected. We are in a position financially to handle another shutdown without any further cuts.

Provost Ennis:

- We had a 73.5% retention rate for freshmen, this is the highest rate on record for CCU.

- We have a good handle on classes that are total streaming (online) but are still working out the kinks in the hybrid model (online and face-to-face running simultaneously).
- When you encounter a faculty or staff member on campus not wearing a mask, gently remind them or carry extra disposable masks with you and offer them one. When you encounter a student on campus not wearing a mask, gently direct the student to one of the many sanitation stations situated in almost every building on campus. Please do not be confrontational with anyone not wearing a mask.

Travis Overton:

- The Board of Trustees is currently going through their evaluation of candidates for President and expect to announce the new President immediately following the October Board Meeting.
- The Board has allowed us to announce that none of the candidates are internal candidates (employees).
- Post-RIF organizational restructure is essentially complete. If anyone is unsure who to contact in any given area, go up one level in the chain of command. If an employee is unsure of their position, they are free to contact Travis Overton directly with questions about their own position.
- CCU is not planning to participate in the national payroll tax deferral unless we are directed to do so by the state OHR.
- Tele-commuting requests are currently being vetted on a case-by-case basis. Tele-commuting is designed to provide an alternate location for an employee to do their work and is not designed to address child-care issues that an employee may be experiencing.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

In an effort to streamline Staff Senate meetings, but also continue to collect valuable employee feedback data, the Senate will begin referring Topic Suggestions that relate to specific areas of operation to the appropriate person in those areas. The Senate will continue to collect these submissions and will review them in total each semester to determine if there are organizational patterns that should be addressed by the Senate as a whole.

- none

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Student Pay Ad Hoc Committee – no report

Take Your Child to Work Committee – no report

Policy and Welfare Committee – no report

Membership Committee – no report

Communication Committee – no report

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A question was submitted during the meeting asking if a new Staff Ombuds would be appointed. Travis Overton answered that once the organizational restructuring was complete and a new staff senate executive committee was in place, the Staff Ombuds position would be revisited at that time.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 am