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Staff Senate, June 8, 2021

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Staff Senate

June 8, 2021
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: Sandy Baldrige-Adrian; Matthew Barnes; Dwayne Bean; Penny Bell; Jean Bennett; April Betsch; Roger Brown; Alli Crandell; John Dooly; Mark Garrison; Judy Johns; David Klauder; Michelle Lewis; Ebony McCray; Melanie McKeefery; Kelly Moore; Sean Pierce; Justin Poindexter; Daniel Rabon; Wendy Singleton; David Speiser; Michele Varga; David Yancey; Travis Youngblood; Bobbi Yurkin; Sharlene Zwing

SUBSTITUTIONS: Jessica Combess for Brittany Donatelli

ABSENT: Brad Queen

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Michael Benson; Dr. Dan Ennis; Travis Overton; David Frost; Kim Sherfese; Carlos Johnson; Amanda Craddock;

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of May minutes was moved by David Klauder and seconded by David Speiser. Minutes passed with no objections.

SENATE PRESIDENT REMARKS:

- Welcome to new senators who are in attendance.
- We are excited to be face-to-face again, and welcome those who are streaming.
- The new organizational structure that was announced earlier this year is now in place and the updated list of President's Council and Executive Council members has been published. They are working on updating the website as well.
- We had some complaints about questions being cut off in the last meeting and wanted to remind everyone that this is a staff senate meeting and not a town hall meeting.

PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

President Benson:

- Attended a Sunbelt Conference meeting in Atlanta yesterday. One area of focus was what our campus is doing in comparison to other universities in the southeast.
- Excited for his family finally being able to move here and to all be together again.
- Please take time to unplug this summer and spend time with loved ones.
- We are still working on the strategic plan and hope to release that soon.

- I'd like to start the Founders Day celebration back, but have it as a Founders Week. I'd rather have a small inauguration ceremony and focus more on how far this institution has come in almost 75 years.
- I'd like to have a staff recognition event similar to the faculty recognition event we had in May.
- The state budget is in the final stages. The Senate has included a 2% cost of living increase for state employees and the House of Representatives has included a 3% cost of living increase. We will have to wait for the final approval, but we are hopeful.

Provost Ennis:

- Former Associate Provost James Solazzo is now a Vice-President over student affairs, student engagement, and student success.
- Freshman enrollment currently is on track to be a record for CCU. Congratulations to Amanda Craddock and her team for their hard work.
- Freshman retention is not as high as last year but it is still expected to be good.
- We will be relaunching the search for the Wall College of Business Dean, and Dean Roberts has announced that he will be retiring at the end of the 21-22 school year. We are finalizing the search for the Dean of Graduate Studies.
- Training and Development has been moved under Academic Affairs. Professional development will continue with the CeTeal and COOL offices now working together with Training and Development.

Travis Overton:

- We have been in regular communication with the SC DOT about the median down 544. The median would start at Founders Drive and go down to the Y at the gas station. There are signs out on 544 now announcing the project is currently under public input. The meeting was initially scheduled to be virtual but DOT has received enough request that the meeting has been to changed to in-person. The date has not yet been set.
- There was a recent email from the President's office and Chanticleer Education Foundation regarding an online survey about items you may have in your office that could be considered archive items. Please complete that survey and help the Education Foundation gather historical items.
- Another organizational chart will be sent out in July reflecting the more recent changes happening in Academic Affairs, the new college development, and the change of Graduate Studies to Continuing Studies.
- The search for the new VP of Human Resources has begun. Erika Small will be serving as the committee chairperson.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy and Welfare Committee –

- We are in the midst of analyzing the open responses to the staff survey and hope to have a report for the July meeting.
- Also working on an amendment to the bylaws for the July meeting.

Membership Committee –

- Finished with elections, only missing a secretary.
- Committee choices have been submitted and final committee placement should be announced next week.
- Ebony McCray volunteered during the report to be the new secretary. Great job Ebony!

Communication Committee – no report

OLD BUSINESS:

- Official results of the staff senate president supplemental pay motion – 21 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained, 1 did not vote due to losing reception during the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- none

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next meeting is July 13 at 9:00 am in Alford Ballroom and live-stream as well.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.