

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes  
Date: April 25, 2024 / Location: Russell 100 and Zoom

- I. Call to Order 2:00pm
- II. Roll Call

**Officers and Senators in attendance:** Ami Towne, Shawn Ridenour, Natalie Weaver, Kelly Hawthorne, Stefan Kells, Craig Musgrove, James Sutton, Austin Harman, Jerry Knight, Darla Ellett, Jennifer Moore, Penny Bridwell, & Jennifer Arnold

**Members in attendance:** Dyanna Bowen, Teresa Anderson, Rachel Childers, Samantha Parker, Mistie Bishop, Lani Toomer, Nick Mizell, Marjorie Robertson, Mekenzie Cruz, Maggie Ahearn, Terri Rogers, Karen Vazquez, Jennifer Ballew, Michelle Burton, Baily Hendrickson, Stephanie Acosta, Susan Dilbeck, Katy Davis, Christi Gaines, Marlena Cataldo, Susan Trombley, Alisha Gray, James Altman, Claudia Bacon-Tonihka, Danna Collins, Jason Stowell, Jarod West, Debbie Maness, & Cynthia Alvarez
- III. Approval of the minutes from March 28, 2024, meeting- motion to approve minutes made by Kelly Hawthorne, seconded by Stefan Kells. Motion carried.
- IV. **Announcements from Vice President Westman/Asst. VP Mark Bisson**
  - a. University Divisions have submitted budgets to VP Westman. **Next steps:**
    - i. Crystal Cheek, Mark Bisson, & V.P. Westman will individually meet w/ each department administrator to discuss details of budget submission. After meetings, all budget info compiled & submitted to President Newsom.
    - ii. SE receives notification of actual state appropriation on May 31<sup>st</sup>
    - iii. State funds calculated into SE's final budget which is then submitted back to the state on June 12<sup>th</sup>

*Looking like legislative appropriations will only cover deferred maintenance, but we will not know until May 31<sup>st</sup>.*
  - b. Healthcare coverage will increase- looking at possible 18% increase. VP Westman will meet with other Oklahoma Board members to discuss ways to possibly lower that increase. Examples:
    - i. Higher deductible, higher co-pay, and/or moving OTC meds currently covered by plan straight to OTC (over the counter) payment methods.
  - c. Per Regents mtg held today, we can not yet speak to tuition/fee increases (or lack thereof) yet- will know more after we receive state funds in late May.
  - d. Numerous renovation projects on campus, including, but not limited to: Shearer Hall roof (June), Fine Arts Building (relocation of Music & COMM has already begun), Aviation renovations, & pedestrian bridge over creek on Crooked Smile Trail, funded by ODoT.
  - e. New signs will be installed at numerous locations including, but not limited to the 8<sup>th</sup> & Chuckwa corner, softball field & Agriculture/ Expo Center.
  - f. Summer work schedule will begin end of May- 10 week schedule, not 8 week schedule this year. 3 holidays in summer including, but not limited to July 4<sup>th</sup> (8 hour holiday) & July 5<sup>th</sup> (8 hour holiday)
- V. Officer Reports
  - a. Chair Ami Towne: Meeting with Administration Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Will discuss compensation proposal at this meeting. Business office updates will be sent to the campus community this week.
  - b. Vice-Chair Shawn Ridenour: nothing to report
  - c. Past Chair Alisha Ridenour: not in attendance
  - d. Archivist Kelly Hawthorne: nothing to report

- e. Treasurer Crystal Cheek: not in attendance
  - f. Parliamentarian Stefan Kells: nothing to report
  - g. Secretary Natalie Weaver: nothing to report
- VI. Committee Reports
- a. Committee on Committees (Alisha Ridenour)- nothing to report
  - b. Nominating and Recognition Committee (Kelly Hawthorne)- Faculty/Staff Awards ceremony was a success. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners & thank you to all who helped with the event.  
Next up: Staff Senate Officer and Senator elections
  - c. University Affairs Committee (Darla Ellett)- nothing to report
- VII. Old Business-see March 28, 2024, minutes for details
- a. Voting Items
    - i. FY25 Staff Compensation Proposal to President Newsom
  - b. Discussion Items
    - i. FY25 Staff Compensation Proposal
    - ii. Plant Sale Date and Volunteers
    - iii. Faculty/Staff recognition Reception and Staff Awards Voting
- VIII. New Business
- a. Voting Items
    - i. No items currently
  - b. Discussion Items
    - i. FY25 Staff Compensation Proposal update- still in evaluation stage. Further updates will be provided after Administration meeting next Monday.
    - ii. Plant Sale and Volunteers- request to those helping with setup to confirm/clarify pricing of items
    - iii. SOLD presentations offered by Zoom or Microsoft Teams- request an option for Zoom (where applicable, understanding some trainings are hands-on activities). A Zoom option would allow engagement and participation from our remote and outreach site employees.
- IX. Announcements
- a. Next Staff Senate meeting date: May 30, 2024
  - b. Next Executive Committee meeting date: May 14, 2024
- X. Adjournment 2:45pm. Motion to adjourn made by Stefan Kells, seconded by Craig Musgrove. Motion carried.