The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:00am on Thursday, January 7, 2021 via Zoom by President David Balai.

Present: David Balai, Mark Ferrell, Ian Toberman, Angie White (also proxy for Carolyn Jason), Domonique Crosby, Denyse Anderson, Cindy Cobetto, Jan Caban, Anne Cavanaugh, Darryl Cherry, Anthony Fearon, Ken Holbert, Doug James, Shane Kessinger, John Milcic, Collin Van Meter, Anne Hunter (ex officio)

Excused: William Dusenbery

Absent: Melanie Schoenborn, Jennifer Zurliene

Guests: Laura Jacobs, Bill Weidler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Minutes for the December 3, 2020 regular meeting was approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Caban noted that COVID testing seems to be going better after a difficult first day, and some people are already getting results.

ACTION ITEMS:
There were no action items.

UPDATES:
The Public Relations Committee is considering having another webinar with a Social Security Representative, potentially in April.

Ferrell is working on the election process.

Balai has mainly been working on the COVID Testing Committee. Bob Thumith and Mike Schultz attended the Staff Senate Executive Board meeting and provided good information. The Chancellor is holding a Town Hall tomorrow, and Balai encouraged everyone to sign up for it.

The University Planning and Budget Council (UPBC) has heard reports from Vice Chancellors, but their requests have not yet been prioritized. The Illinois budget is not expected until April, and there may be other developments on a federal level due to the change in administration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
The UPBC is still working on revisions to its operating papers. There is some concern about how membership will be adjusted as new constituency groups are added, but the papers should soon be passed and brought to constituency groups for review. Previously faculty had over 50% of the committee voice, and the revisions will bring a balance among faculty, staff, and students.
NEW BUSINESS:
There was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Laura Jacobs was approved by the Executive Board as the Staff Senate representative on the Common Reading Steering Committee. This committee came out of the Anti-Racism Task Force and will create a common reading program at SIUE, essentially identifying a book each year to integrate into the first year experience. The committee is looking at goals and processes, ways to integrate into upper level courses, inclusion of faculty and staff, and integrating into existing programming.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
Kessinger shared that the Alton campus will be offered the COVID vaccine next week. The School of Pharmacy has had the vaccine offered to faculty, staff, and students in the department by St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. Phyleccia Cole has looked at the potential of mandating vaccines, but it does not currently seem likely.

Cherry noted that Black people in America were triggered by the events at the Capitol, and encouraged people to take a long look at the response. He asked that people check in with each other in this difficult time.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting adjourned at 9:24 am.

Submitted by Anne Hunter, University Governance
STAFF SENATE MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 924-7748-1076, Password: chimega
January 7, 2021 – 9:00am
AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
III. PUBLIC COMMENT
IV. ACTION ITEMS
V. MONTHLY UPDATES
   a. Officers
   b. Constituency Representatives
   c. Staff Senate Committees
   d. University Committees
   e. Search Committees
   f. Ex-Officio
VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   a. UPBC Update
VII. NEW BUSINESS
VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
     a. Appointment to Common Reading Steering Committee – Laura Jacobs
IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
X. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting of the Staff Senate Executive Committee will be Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 9:00am
Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00am