The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:01am on Thursday, March 4, 2021 via Zoom by President David Balai.

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

Excused: Mark Ferrell

Absent: Ian Toberman, Darryl Cherry, Jennifer Zurliene

Guests: Tammie Baker, Angie Bayer, Kelsey Cutright, Ryan Donald, Rachel Garrett, Laura Jacobs, Rasheda King, Melissa Ringering

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Minutes for the February 4, 2021 regular meeting was approved as corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Fearon shared that Building Service Workers are regularly being put out of pay status when they have leave time available; Kessinger brought the issue up at the Morris University Center (MUC) Board meeting. Schoenborn made recommendations to the Employee Excellence Plan (EEP) via Anderson.

ACTION ITEMS:
Nicole Robinson was approved unanimously to fill the ESL CSNP/ASRP vacancy. Anderson and Cobetto reached out in February to all eligible constituents by email and hard-copy letter.

Angie White was approved unanimously as the Staff Senate appointment to the School of Nursing Dean Search Committee.

Schoenborn moved to approve up to $500 for the Summer Staff Senate Scholarship to be awarded at the Scholarship Committee’s discretion. There was a discussion of fundraising, which was halted due to COVID-19. Schoenborn called the question, and the motion was adopted with 13 in favor and 1 against. Carolyn Jason volunteered for the Fundraising Committee.

UPDATES:
Anderson and Schoenborn sent out emails to all eligible constituents about the upcoming election.

Crosby reported that she is working with a staff member on a disciplinary hearing.
Balai shared information from the February Board of Trustees meeting. Chancellors were asked for a 5% reduction scenarios, but the Governor has since put forward a flat budget. Chancellor Pembrook gave information on the 2.6% proposed fee increase that was approved by Student Government and the University Planning and Budget Council (UPBC) on the condition that the athletics fee was not increased and students were not charged co-pays for Health Services, however the Board of Trustees is not supporting any fee or tuition increases at this time. Balai offered kudos to Toberman for the Honors Program presentation.

Balai reported that the Faculty Staff and Appreciation Day will be a gift to employees rather than a lunch. CARES package three will provide $5 million to students and $10 million to the University. Jessica Harris started as the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on March 1. The University will not be moving to R2 at this point, but the group was charged to leverage the strongest research areas and reaffirm the University as a teaching institution. There was confusion about what an administrative closure for inclement weather meant for people working remotely and for class instruction, and there will be conversations happening to define what it means for everyone. Things changed rapidly to work around COVID, but it is necessary to start defining policies and situations going forward.

COVID testing is mainly covered by insurance, and the University only incurs a cost when someone does not have insurance. Anderson requested a break-down of costs. Mike Schultz is the Chair of the committee overseeing COVID testing, however it could be a few months before costs are finalized as insurance processes payments. Riane Greenwalt is also working on getting SIUE designated as a pod for our community and the surrounding area.

Balai met with Mike Pulley, who is the representative for the University on the State Universities Civil Service Advisory Committee (SUCSAC). The rules for suspension and dismissal have been more clearly defined, and the rules are there so a supervisor has to go through proper steps to seek termination of an employee. SIUE has been the fastest to complete conversions from Administrative Staff to Civil Service, however there are still quite a few to do. It was noted that employees should be mindful of changes in work agreements and habits and not do things like answering email after work hours; the trend has been going on for a while in higher education. Balai will continue to meet with Pulley and bring back information to the Staff Senate.

The Committee for Higher Administrator Performance Appraisal (CHAPA) has conducted interviews for the Provost evaluation and sent a survey out to the campus community.

The University Center Board (UCB) reported that sales are down overall. Springboard will be held in-person this fall. Cocina items may be added into The Wok area. There will be sales at the Bookstore in March since there will be a new logo coming. There will be a March 17 St. Patrick’s Day sidewalk sale. Dining Services is looking for new coolers and working on exterior lighting issues. Some signage is being redone. The Campus Activities Board (CAB) has a list of all activities going on at the MUC. There are issues with staff morale.
The Parking and Traffic Committee will have an opening soon for a Staff Senate representative. The committee meets once a month on Fridays in the morning, and representatives also serve on one of the subcommittees. The total time commitment is about three hours a month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
The there was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:
The there was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Announcements were reviewed as listed on the agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
The Scholarship deadline will be added to the announcements for the April meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.

Submitted by Anne Hunter, University Governance
STAFF SENATE MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 924-7748-1076, Password: chimega
March 4, 2021 – 9:00am
AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
III. PUBLIC COMMENT
IV. ACTION ITEMS
   a. Appointment to the ESL CSNP/ASRP Vacancy
   b. Appointment to School of Nursing Dean Search Committee – Angie White
   c. Approval of Funds for Summer Staff Senate Scholarship Award
V. MONTHLY UPDATES
   a. Officers
   b. Constituency Representatives
   c. Staff Senate Committees
   d. University Committees
   e. Search Committees
   f. Ex-Officio
VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
VII. NEW BUSINESS
VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   a. Counseling Services Webinar Series March 8 & 9 from 12:00pm – 1:00pm
   b. Staff Senate Election Petitions Due – March 22
   c. Staff Senate Elections – April 7-14
   d. Social Security Webinar – April 20 from 11:30am – 1:00pm
IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
X. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting of the Staff Senate Executive Committee will be Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 9:00am
Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 9:00am