UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
Zoom Meeting ID 962-6069-8375  
April 15, 2021 – 9:00am  
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate Executive Board was called to order at 9:03am on Thursday, April 15, 2021 via Zoom by President David Balai.

Present: David Balai, Mark Ferrell, Ian Toberman, Angela White, Domonique Crosby, Denyse Anderson, Cindy Cobetto, Melanie Schoenborn, Anne Hunter (ex officio)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The minutes for the March 18, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

REPORTS AND UPDATES:
The Social Security Administration webinar has 163 people currently registered.

Schoenborn will retire on June 30, 2021. Balai thanked her for her service to the Staff Senate.

The Policy Review Committee met with Bob Thumith to address follow up questions from the Senate. There is confusion in the language regarding Inclement Weather Days that will be cleaned up in the future; employees working remotely were not expected to work on that day. Work-From-Home is being looked at on the system level. The conversion from Professional Staff to Civil Service is about 65% complete, but not all employees who are affected have been notified. No separate communication has gone to supervisors and managers regarding the evaluation module. There have been chronic issues getting information from Human Resources employees.

The election survey closed, and Ferrell thanked Hunter for her work on the elections. There were 102 responses, and the results will be certified at the May Staff Senate meeting.

The SIU System Staff Committee has been discussing staff development and will be sending out surveys about potential topics.

Balai met with the Chancellor. The Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion was announced. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been halted, and the University is pivoting to the Pfizer vaccine for students.

There was discussion about the system group that was put together to look at the Work-From-Home policy. The SIUE representatives are Morris Taylor and Jeff Waple, and it was noted that this is not representative of employees. Individual departments are being allowed to set policies for campus as Enrollment Management decided that Springboard would happen in person, which has impacted other departments and required them to be in-person as well. Faculty were allowed to choose what their fall semester would look like with guidance, however that same grace is not being extended to staff. There is growing frustration among staff, and people are being asked to return to work without a date and with no work-from-home policy in place. There is a lack of rules and understanding about what coming
back to work looks like and no explanation of why a specific date was chosen. Staff continue to feel disrespected. There was a suggestion to invite Dr. Waple and Dr. Taylor to the next Staff Senate meeting.

There were no other reports.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**
There was no new business.

**ACTION ITEMS:**
Crosby was put forward as the Staff Senate representative on the SIU System Strategic Planning Goal 5 Committee. Goal 5 focuses on faculty and staff support on campus. There was a motion and second to accept the nomination, and it was approved unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
Announcements were reviewed as listed on the agenda.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**
The Staff Senate Scholarship summer awardees will be announced at the next Executive Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Balai will reach out to the Chancellor and Dr. Gireesh Gupchup about the work-from-home policy. It was noted that questions that were upvoted at the last Town Hall were not addressed. The transition time is very short, and it makes it difficult for staff to make plans for childcare, transportation, and other arrangements. Enrollment Management made the decision without consulting affected departments, and it impacts a significant number of people since 17 of the Springboard sessions will be in-person.

**ADJOURNMENT:**
The meeting adjourned at 9:53 am.

Submitted by Anne Hunter, University Governance
I. CALL TO ORDER
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
III. REPORTS AND UPDATES
IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
VI. ACTION ITEMS
   a. SIU System Strategic Planning Goal 5 Committee Appointment – Domonique Crosby
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   a. Social Security Webinar – April 20 from 11:30am-1:00pm
   b. Board of Trustees Meeting – April 29
VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
X. ADJOURNMENT