The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate Executive Board was called to order at 9:32am on Thursday, March 17, 2022 via Zoom by President Keith Becherer.

Present: Keith Becherer, David Balai, Angie White, Cindy Cobetto, Denyse Anderson, Mike Hamil, Carolyn Jason, Anne Hunter (ex officio)

Absent: Darryl Cherry

Guest: Dusty Rhodes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The minutes for the February 17, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

REPORTS AND UPDATES:
Becherer attended the March Faculty Senate meeting where Dr. James Minor was a guest. The Chancellor has hired a budget consultant. Masks are expected to be optional on campus starting March 28. Student workers have expressed relief at not having to enforce mask mandates, which created conflict situations. Some professors are already not enforcing mask wearing.

An announcement for the School of Dental Medicine Dean search is expected soon. The Vice Chancellor for Advancement search is ongoing.

Chancellor Minor made several visits to the East St. Louis campus. The Faculty and Staff Appreciation event will take place on April 20 for the ESLC. The search committee for the Associate Deputy Director is submitting a recommendation to Dr. Staples this week.

There were no other reports.

ACTION ITEMS:
There were no action items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
There are several vacancies in Senate seats.

NEW BUSINESS:
Hunter announced that she is leaving the University on March 31. The Chancellor’s Office is working on filling the position. The Position Description Questionnaire (PDQ) for the position was recently updated.

The SIU System climate survey is now available and takes about 20 minutes to complete.
There was a discussion about institutional barriers to student success. Being able to work over the summer helps students who are staying locally, and it is also beneficial to international students who are on campus sooner than the semester employment period starts. Online advising has been a big support for students as it makes it easier for them to schedule and attend appointments. There is a need for more flexibility in course offerings as the move to online courses during COVID has made many students ask for online options. Needed courses are not offered frequently enough. The lack of a fall break was noted as a detriment to student success, but it is a complex issue to do the timing of Thanksgiving, getting grades in on time, and other calendar issues. A suggestion was made to build in a wellness day of destressing activities. A need for better support for first generation and non-traditional transfer students was noted. Concerns about staff overload, burnout, and underpayment were also discussed, and it will be necessary to put resources into staff for success.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Announcements were reviewed as listed on the agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
There were no future agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.

Submitted by Anne Hunter, University Governance
I. CALL TO ORDER
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
III. REPORTS AND UPDATES
   a. Executive Officers
      i. President
      ii. Past-President
      iii. President-Elect
      iv. Secretary
      v. Treasurer
      vi. Constituency Representatives
   b. Search Committees in Progress
      i. Director of Human Resources
      ii. Dean for the School of Dental Medicine
      iii. Vice-Chancellor for University Advancement
IV. ACTION ITEMS
V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   a. Vacancies – CSNP 2, CSOR 2, ALT CSNP/ASRP, ALT CSOR/ASNR
   b. Rules and Procedures Council Appointment
   c. Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Award Committee Appointment
   d. Nominations for Executive Director Marketing and Communications Search Committee
VI. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Policy Review Committee Chair
   b. Discussion and feedback on Institutional Barriers to Student Success
   c. SIU System Climate Survey sent out on March 14th
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   a. Staff Senate Scholarship Application Period – April 1-30
   b. IL Secretary of State Mobile Services on Campus – April 19
VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
   a. Craig Holan, Director of Facilities Management, to present at April 7th Staff Senate meeting
IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
X. ADJOURNMENT