

Texas Tech University Staff Senate General Meeting Agenda

November 1, 2023

4 – 5 p.m.

SUB Llano Estacado Room | Teams Attendance: www.staffsenate.ttu.edu/checkin.php

Attendees: Colin Baxter, Jarrod Nutt, Carol Bonner, Blaine Grimes, Scott Layher, Stephanie West, Marie Hanza Heather Johnson, Marian Gossett, Jeremy Haggard, Jana Campbell, Casandra Suarez, Flavia Corona, Jonathan Montes, Rachel Steinberg, Rodney Lackey, Jenn Fidler, Johnny Fowler, Lord Rodrick Thomas, Carol Bonner, Loni Crosby, Brandy Ganus, Feroza Haq, Nicole Wyatt, Beth Watson, Jeff Hoover, Anthony Rodriguez, Joann Wright, Jeramey Gillilan, Rosa Testini, Theresa Madrid, Yulanda white, Angela Chisum, Kym Ruiz, Christine Mosher, Chamonix Mejia, Delores Sanchez, Jared McCauley, Elizabeth Carroll, Jerrod Nutt, Colin Baxter, Morgan Hyman, Jasmine Flores, Lindsey Crowley-Scott, April Narbaez, Holley Baker, Rachel Bloodworth, Heather Johnson

Call to Order – Carol Bonner

Called to Order at: 4:02PM

Land Acknowledgement-Stephanie West

Guest Speakers

Dr. Lawrence Schovanec-President

Dr. Schovanec explained his decision to fund the Staff Emergency Fund at \$7,500 a year. He also addressed issues surrounding Senate Bill 17, noting that time will tell how the bill will or may impact enrollment. He mentioned that while our university-wide commitment to inclusion will not change, our methods have and will have to change.

Genevieve Durham DeCesaro-Vice Provost for Faculty Success

Genevieve Durham DeCesaro spoke about her time spent seeking the input from a wide array of faculty and staff about issues and questions they have surrounding SB 17. If staff have questions, Genevieve is happy to address and help as needed.

Jeremy Haggard shared about community service opportunities for students, to which Dr. Schovanec expressed gratitude and shared information about Raider Rojos Alumni Network.

Feroza Haq inquired about resources for the spouse/partners of students. Dr. Schovanec highlighted some resources, such as the Food Pantry and the Employee Assistance Program.

Rachel Bloodworth asked about using specific inclusive statements in recruitment materials, and Genevieve Durham DeCesaro recommended that it is best to reach out to her directly with specific questions like this.

Rodney Lackey shared that the university Title IX training mentions inclusivity in a way that seems at odds with SB 17, and asked for Dr. Schovanec's input.

Theresa Madrid asked about being denied permission for her department to buy food for their cultural event. Dr. Schovanec said that there is an application process for similar instances, as the university needs documentation for these events. Genevieve Durham DeCesaro mentioned that there is a possibility of funding student organizations, which could in-turn fund an event.

Lindsey Crowley-Scott asked what we should do if we encounter a faculty or staff member who is wanting to leave due to SB17. DeCesaro encouraged employees to ask how we can help when encountering these individual issues.

Beth Watson asked about departmental reporting to external agencies requesting demographic information about students for accreditation purposes. DeCesaro said it is permissible to report that student information as it pertains to accreditation.

Carol Bonner asked if Staff Senate could use budget funds to create a "you belong" sticker. DeCesaro answered in the affirmative.

Rosa Testini has found it hard to see how faculty are engaging in new hire processes for faculty in an inclusive way. DeCesaro said that we continue to hire according to our affirmative action plan.

Genevieve Durham DeCesaro encouraged staff to check in on one another, ask if they are okay, and support one another.

Administrative Business

Quorum – Blaine Grimes

We have quorum.

GM: Approve Past Minutes (September) – Carol Bonner Academic Council-Stephanie West

Motion: Marian Gossett

Second: Rachel Bloodworth

Result: unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report- Scott Layher

Unfinished Business-Carol Bonner

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Received approval to continue reading land acknowledgement statement

New Business-Carol Bonner & Stephanie West

Staff Senate holiday potluck & gift card exchange for December 7th or 8th

Survey for Staff Senate engagement

Committee check-in: has everyone been meeting?

Maternity and medical leave discussion

Carol Bonner announced that we will treat FMLA absences as excused absences, with work coming to amend Senate documents as needed.

Virtual attendance

Carol Bonner announced that we are discontinuing the virtual attendance option for Staff Senate meetings, with an exception made for employees who work remotely as part of their position description or ADA accommodations. The stated goal for this decision is to increase participation and active engagement.

OP Review – Marie Hanza-Chair

No updates

Bylaws – Marie Hanza-Chair & Jared McCauley-Co-Chair

No updates

Grievances – Chris Mosher-Chair & Feroza Haq-Co-Chair

No updates

11. Communications/Public Relations – Lindsey Crowley-Scott-Chair

a. Corn Maze, Trivia & Second Cup went very well, thanks to everyone who attended! b. Fundraiser for SEF at Fajita Pete's November 16th (open to close)

i. Funds come from every customer who mentions the fundraiser for TTU Staff Senate, so invite everyone you know to pick up Fajita Pete's for Dinner on the 16th!

c. Everyday Leadership Luncheon February 7th, Time TBD

12. Scholarships & Awards– Johnny Fowler-Chair & Marian Gossett-Co-Chair

a. Staff Senate Scholarship applications closed yesterday (10/31)

13. Diversity – Holley Baker- Chair & Loni Crosby-Co-Chair

a. No updates

14. Issues –Beth Watson-Chair

1. Two issues closed
 - i. One issue relating to traffic violations on Flint Ave. – these should be referred to
Parking or TTUPD non-emergency
 - ii. One issue relating to merit pay – there are specific OPs about eligibility as well as
appeals
2. One issue ongoing

15. Elections- Rachel Kloc-Chair

a. No updates

16. Staff Emergency Fund – Jenn Fidler/Jeff Bain (both Co-Chairs)

a. No updates

17. Nominations – Brandy Ganus-Chair & Heather Johnson-Co-Chair

1. Had a couple of Senators who asked me about their committees last meeting.
 - i. They're added to committees now. I saw their names, but I didn't have them listed
as Senators on my spreadsheet reference lists. They're on the updated ones
though.
 - ii. Communicated with the Technology Committee about them so they're added to
the website now as well.
2. Nominations Committee Members have access to the form now as well.

18. Technology – Nicole Wyatt-Chair & Flavia Corona-Co-Chair

a. No updates

19. Caregiver Support – Elizabeth Carroll-Chair & Angela Chisum-Co-Chair

- a. Installing 1 of 3 pumps
- b. Requesting clarification of HR's process with lactation rooms
- c. Advocating to change OP 70.46 Break Time for Nursing Mothers

20. Open Forum Announcements-open to all Senators & guests 21. Adjourn

Adjourned at: 5:23PM