

Staff Council General Meeting

May 24, 2022

Zoom 3:00-4:30PM

Members Present: Sharmeen Ahmed, Maricela Alexander, LaMar Black, Suzanne Bonds, Zelda Chacon, Coari Williams, Johnathan Cooper, Debra Cortinas, Brenton Day, Jennifer Escamilla, Valerie Gibbons, Veronica Harris, Amanda Kowalski, Sonia McNeill, Lee Moore, Hayford Osei, Elizabeth Perez, Michelle Hollenbaugh, Patricia Rodriguez, JoAnne Salinas, Ronald Sepulveda, Jaquelyn Westbrook, Melissa Zamora, Susan Layton.

Members Absent: Jaclyn Mahlmann, Ben Soto, Angela Walker.

I. Call to Order: 3:01PM

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. 1st by Lee Moore, 2nd by Suzanne Bonds

III. Jennifer Escamilla- New Employees

- a. Welcome new employees!
- b. Approx. 18 new hires this month
- c. Staff Council has a lot of events throughout the year, and we encourage new employees to volunteer and take part in the events.

IV. Guest Speaker- Suzanne Bonds/ Nellena McCabe of Go Team Therapy Dogs

- Nellena McCabe is our guest speaker today from Go Team Therapy Dogs.
- Go Therapy Dogs are not just for the students, its for faculty, staff, and students.
- Employees and animals are all certified and trained
- Go Therapy is a non-profit, volunteer only
- Nellena & Alex had over 800+ hours of volunteer service their 1sy year, now over 1000+hrs of service.
- On survey done by students, Nellena & Alexa's question was the only one that had 100% response rate.
- Go Therapy goes out to the Spohn hospitals for volunteer services.
- Nellena contact information if you would like to get in touch with her and learn more about her organization.
 - Email: mccabenlynn62@gmail.com

- Phone : 361-437-9445

V. Vote of Secretary

- We will be taking nominations for the position from the floor.
- The person who is elected will serve as secretary for the remainder of the current term.
- Corbin has offered to take minutes for the remainder of the current term. The newly elected secretary will not need to take on minute duties.
- Communications Committee
- Anyone can nominate, current, incoming, previous. Only current members can be nominated and elected.
- Nominees will have to accept or decline the nomination.
- Nominees: Zelda Chacon
- 22 Votes for Zelda Chacon, 0 for Abstain

VI. Vote for Constitution

- Revisions were sent out to members
- We can accept minor changes; major changes cannot be made at this point.
- 15 votes are needed for the revisions of the constitution to be passed.
- Constitution will be taken to Dr. Miller, then will be voted on by the University.
- Voting Results: 21 in favor, 1 abstain

VII. President Report - Sharmeen Ahmed

- Summer Break in the Day
 - July 12th will be our Summer Break in the Day. More details to come.
 - We will be joining forces with Faculty Senate to co-host the event.
- August Retreat
 - August 16th will be the Staff Council Retreat in Bay Hall 126 1:00PM-3:00PM.
 - Corbin will send calendar invite out.
 - More details to come.
- Feedback on CLIMB
 - Any feedback helps.
 - Zelda Chacon: Felt like there was more participation this year. Time of the year was challenging; a lot was going on.

- Brenton Day: 8:00AM start time was a bit early to start.
- Mari Alexander: Climb use to be on a reading day in May. That made it easier to attend sessions.
- Daniel Passonno: Time of year made it difficult to attend sessions.
- Suzanne Bonds: Was not sure when the lunch was taking place.
- LaMar Black: Drumming session with instruments went well

VIII. Vice-President's Report- Brenton Day

- Unable to attend Faculty Senate Meeting.
 - Corbin gave update on Faculty Senate
- Photo Sessions
 - Trying to get scheduled for August retreat
 - Outgoing and Incoming members will get their photos taken
- CHRO Search Committee
 - Application has closed, phone interviews have been conducted, VP of F&A is currently arranging on campus interviews.
 - Toni Nerren will the first on campus interview. Please see campus announcement for more information

IX. Treasurer's Report- Valarie Gibbons

- 24 t-shirts remain for sale
- Please get with Valerie if you are looking to buy shirts.
- Shirts can be given as gifts.

X. Committee Reports

- Nominations and Elections- Brenton Day (Chair)
 - Update on EEO4 Special Election
 - Replacing Noelle Freese
 - Nomination process has already begun
 - Reminder email is going out today.
 - Working on Membership Affairs Standard Operating Procedures
- Benefits & Employee Development – JoAnne Salinas (Chair)
 - No Report.
- University Relations – Jacquelyn Westbrook – (Chair)

- Break in the Day is happening July 12th. More details to come.
- Planning will begin for Break in the Day in the coming weeks. Look out for teams invite.
- Communication Committee – (No Chair)
 - No Report

XI. Adhoc Committees

- Employee Excellence Awards – Brenton Day (Chair)
 - Winners:
 - Leadership: George Herrera, Police Lieutenant
 - Inclusion: Elvia Aguilar, Assistant Director- Alumni Relations
 - Impact: Leisha Martin, Postdoctoral Research Associate

XII. Liaison Reports

- University Committee Update
 - SEBAC Report- Zelda Chacon
 - Important Changes are coming to FY23
 - No increase to the employee medical premium.
 - FRP Dental Plan: Delta Dental was chosen
 - New for FY23: Everyone will have to do wellness exam and activity to receive discount rate.
 - Open enrollment is in July. July 31st is the late day to make changes to benefits.
- Advisor Update – Jaclyn Mahlmann
 - No Report.
- HR Update – Debra Cortinas
 - Staff Salary Study-Phase 3
 - HR is working on equity increases for year 3
 - Depending on enrollment, \$500,000 will be allocated for university supported positions
 - All increases will be dependent on final reviews and approvals

- We hope to have recommendations to VPs by mid-June and increases will be effective September 1, 2022
- IT Update – Ben Soto
 - No Report

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

- Parking Garage
 - Chief Alan Gutierrez is here from University Police Department.
 - 469 tickets were given in the parking garage last semester
 - Pros & Cons to the new system for the garage
 - If you see something, say something. Report it to PD. Provide time of day, vehicle color, situation. PD will take care of it.
 - PD is constantly monitoring the garage as well as all other locations on campus.
 - PD does have cameras so they can monitor or track.
- You can give to Staff Council through IA Giving. Please make sure to put down “Staff Council”.

XV. Adjourn 4:31PM