

## STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Zoom Virtual Meeting

October 12, 2020

**PRESENT:** Yaritza Abdelnour, Gwen Bays, Lisa Booher, Vanessa Canter, Tim Dills, Chasity Drew, David Finney, Joy Fulkerson, Cody Greene, Suzy Hooven, Kathi Horne, Anthony Johnson, Kimberlyn King, Trish Lowe, Ronald Mann, Candy Massey, Crystal Maupin, Jennifer Mayberry, Don McCarty, Jessica Miller, Kim Miller, Amanda Mowell, Stefanie Murphy, Emily Redd, Evelyn Roach, Veronica Roberson, David Robinson, Hazel Robinson, Christie Scalf, Tory Street, NaKeisha Talley, Liz Thomas-Joseph, Brian Thompson, and Yvette Whitemore..

**EXCUSED:** Debbie Marsh, Cathy Metcalf, and Skylar Moore. **UNEXCUSED:** Barbi Ly-Worley and Christie Scalf. **RESIGNED:** Becky Birdwell, Cathy Carty, Kathleen Moore, and Libby Tipton. **GUEST:** Mr. Jeremy Ross - Chief Operating Officer

- I. **Call to Order:** President Candy Massey called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
  
- II. **Guest Speaker:** Mr. Jeremy Ross, ETSU Chief Operating Officer, shared information with the Senate on several of the campus building projects which have recently been completed and those underway for the near future. He shared that the university's Master Plan was updated at the last Board of Trustees meeting, and he explained the concept of "archology" to the Senate (the combination of architecture and ecology). Mr. Ross shared photos of the Culp Center (a \$45.5 million project) and the Martin Center to demonstrate how the use of glass can allow the outdoors to be seen and the use of wood to improve the "warmth" of a facility. Renderings of the renovations to Lamb Hall (\$23 million project) and the Boulevard Commons area near it were also discussed. Mr. Ross stated that improvements to the Amphitheater area had been included in the Culp renovation, but those improvements had not yet been completed. Secretary Dills asked if the cement globes and their pedestals would be moved in these changes; Mr. Ross replied that they would be moved to the Boulevard Commons area. Secretary Dills reminded him that the one closest to Nicks Hall houses the time capsule from the Centennial celebration, which will hopefully be opened at the Sesquicentennial in 2061, so any moves need to be carefully documented. All of these improvements raised the question of the impact on parking spaces; Mr. Ross replied that there had been a small net gain in parking through the acquisition of the Millennium Center and changes near the Physical Plant. He noted that discussions on where to locate clinical parking and handicapped parking near Lamb were still in progress.

Senator Amanda Mowell emphasized that the public may view all these projects with some concern, since the university has communicated its current financial issues. She and Mr. Ross encouraged Senators to share with friends and colleagues that these projects have been in the works for several years and include major allocations from state funds. A question was raised as to whether additional handicapped spaces would be placed at Wilson-Wallis Hall; Mr. Ross agreed to check on this matter. Mr. Ross reported that he expects the Boulevard Commons area to improve pedestrian accessibility

on the campus. A question was raised as to the possibility of Staff Senate being allowed to tour the new Martin Center; Mr. Ross asked for potential dates when Senators would be available for this tour. Having no further questions or comments, Mr. Ross exited the meeting.

- III. Approval of Minutes: Senator David Robinson moved to approve the September minutes as presented, and Member-at-Large Lisa Booher seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- IV. President's Report: President Massey reported that Dr. Noland is preparing a video recognizing those who are retiring due to the incentive process; the video will be distributed to the campus community soon. She also shared about her participation in the interviews with the two candidates for Campus Chief of Police (Mr. Cesar Gracia and Mr. Jeff Blanton), and she reported that both candidates had very strong backgrounds in law enforcement. She mentioned the changes which will be made to the Spring 2021 academic calendar. President Massey also noted that the Parental Leave policy was on hold until after the Covid-19 crisis passes; Dr. Noland hopes to continue work on that after Spring term is completed. President Massey stated that she is still in need of a chair for the Visibility Committee.
- V. Vice President's Report: Vice President Fulkerson stated that she will meet with the chairs of the Senate committees to plan the work for the academic year before the end of October. She shared information from the University Council meeting earlier in the day. Expressions of appreciation were shared with Dr. Noland for the two days of paid leave (October 5 and 6). Faculty Senate had formally recognized National Custodial Workers Day on October 2; Senators were encouraged to thank custodial workers in their areas for their efforts. Vice President Fulkerson reported that the Outdoor Wireless improvements should be completed by November 14. She noted that Athletics continues to work on changes to the spring calendar, including the men's and women's basketball schedule. Athletics has a fund-raising initiative called "All Hands On Deck" to help offset the major monetary losses experienced during the pandemic (lack of basketball tournament revenue, gate receipts from football, etc.). The new Health Care Marketing concentration for the MBA program was announced. The retirement of Mary Cradic from the President's Office staff was also reported; Ms. Cradic handled the management of all standing university committees, and her departure will prompt a review of redundancies between committees and the development of a new proposal to manage these committees. Vice President Fulkerson noted the Dr. Mike Hoff has been conducting focus groups with students; similar groups will be undertaken soon with faculty and staff. She reminded the Senate of the focus on mental health and wellness during the pandemic. Dr. Noland shared some slides from his State of the University Address the previous Friday; she will forward those to Secretary Dills to share with the Senate. Enrollment was within the planned reductions upon which the budget was based. Positive news of matching last year's record graduation rate (50%) and recording the university's highest retention rate ever (78%) were announced. Seventy-seven staff were approved for the voluntary retirement incentive, while twenty-five faculty have so far opted to participate. The 125

Committee (Part II) will soon begin working on the new Strategic Plan (by the year 2036). Vice President Fulkerson further explained the changes to the Spring calendar; Dr. Noland presented four options to the SGA, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate officers. The final decision was to keep the beginning and ending dates the same for Spring term and eliminate the actual week of Spring Break, but instead spread those days across the term to allow some breaks from online courses and zoom meetings. December's commencement will once again be virtual, though some departments will be granted flexibility regarding hooding or other special recognitions.

- VI. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crystal Maupin reported that the balance in the Main Account is \$10,024. The CBC and Holiday Drive balances remain at \$2,681.25 and \$819.91, respectively. She stated that no budget reductions have yet been applied to the main account. Senator Jennifer Mayberry is working on the CBC food drive for Thanksgiving.
- VII. Old Business: Senator Emily Redd announced the launching of the newly improved Staff Senate website. She stated that it is almost ready to go live.
- VIII. New Business: None.
- IX. Announcements: Secretary Dills congratulated Senator Anthony Johnson on succeeding him as Secretary for the remainder of the academic year. Senator Kim Miller, who also ran for that vacancy, has agreed to serve as Parliamentarian, the position Senator Johnson is vacating. Senator Mowell thanked Senator Horne for her efforts to schedule a group photo for the website, which was unsuccessful; she recommended that a Zoom screen shot at the November meeting be used instead. Past President Murphy moved to adopt that idea; Senator Brian Thompson moved for consensus. He also thanked Senator Horne for her work in getting head-shots scheduled for Senators; Senator Horne mentioned that she is still working Charlie Warden, the university photographer.
- X. Adjournment – Senator D. Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Past President Murphy seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Dills, Secretary