

Minutes

UWF Staff Senate

Meeting

Alumni Room

University of West Florida

May 14, 2019

The meeting of the UWF Staff Senate was called to order at 1:30pm by Staff Senate President Keaton West.

Attendance was taken by sign in of Senators. The following Senators were present:

Elizabeth Bennett, Sara Brake, Deb Cluff, Michael Cochran, Alycia Grieco, Tony Hayes, Elaine Henjum, Ethan Henley, Jesse Hoek, Denise Kidd, April Kocher, Christy Kolb, Michael Krueger, Akilah Lewis, Audrey Liss, Jim McMillen, Brittany Mixson, Pam Newton, Angie Quenan, Julie Rettig, Michelle Riendeau, Monte Stone, Keaton West.

Proxy Attendance: John Mobley for Larry King.

Senators Brandy Gottlieb, Twana McDaniel, Kendra Roberts, and Megan Veach were absent.

Others Attending: George Ellenberg, Jeff Comeau, Chip Chism.

1. Approval of Minutes and Treasury Report

President West asked Senators to have previously reviewed the March meeting minutes. One edit was submitted. No changes were noted in the Treasury Report.

President West asked for a motion to approve the April minutes with edits and the Treasury Report.

Motioned by: Angie Quenan

Seconded by: Pam Newton

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Administrative Reports

Executive Report- George Ellenberg

Updates for the UWF campus and community were provided by George Ellenberg.

Dr. Ellenberg notes on upcoming Metrics numbers. The official announcement will be made in June. Four-year graduation rate will continue to be a focus for UWF.

Commencement went smoothly. Dr. Ellenberg shared thanks for those staff who helped make the event a success. UWF has received a suggestion to reintegrate graduate degree recipients into the college specific ceremonies.

UWF hosted the Cybersecurity Executive Leadership Forum. The event represented the university well.

Legislative Update: The session was not as bad as earlier feared. Carry forward changes appear they will be helpful moving forward. Texting while driving law was updated. SUS institutions are required to have 2+2 agreements. An Anti-Antisemitism Law was passed and focuses on hate speech. There was also an update on free speech. No new construction was approved. No more maintenance funds will be provided for new construction at SUS institutions.

The Governor has 15 days after he receives the budget to veto line items. He had not received the budget as of May 14. UWF has five items that can be vetoed. Funds for Cybersecurity support, OEDE funding, MVRC funding, funding for the Mechanical Engineering program, and funds shared with FSU for the PA program.

Freshman class for 2019 looks good. Better students have been recruited.

Enrollment for Summer and Fall 2019 looks good. Tuition becomes increasingly important as state support is reduced.

BOG is working on reviewing Performance Based Funding process and may lean toward a tier system.

Senators had questions about metrics and Performance Based Funding. Dr. Ellenberg provided further information. Staff play an important role in UWF's Metrics success.

Betsy Bowers – Finance and Administration

Betsy Bowers requested Staff Senate support in identifying Building Emergency Coordinators (BECs). Emergency procedures are being reviewed ahead of the 2019 hurricane season. Staff senators are asked to reach out to constituents in their served areas to help identify Building Emergency Coordinators. Training will be available for BECs. Blake Thompson from ITS provided an overview of the resources that will be shared with Senators as part of the outreach. Each building should have a minimum of one BEC.

Human Resources - Jeff Comeau

Jeff Comeau provided updates from Human Resources.

Legislative Updates: There are no changes to 2020 insurances. The Legislature does want to offer regional HMOs which would give employees access to providers in neighboring counties. A consulting company will review all insurance companies and help make determinations. Dental insurance is considered an issue; plans and coverage will be reviewed as well.

The state is looking at international sourcing for long term medications. It must be confirmed medications meet FDA standards when they come to the US through prescription providers. There may be formulary changes (changes to the categories for prescriptions and tiers for generic, preferred and specialized). All health insurance options use the same prescription formulary.

Florida Retirement system is increasing their costs which hopefully will lead to an increase in staff support.

For employees processing student employees, use the Information Navigator report OHR000099 to track FTEs. Once an employee reaches 0.75 FTEs or greater, they are eligible for benefits. If an employee rejects benefits, they will have to wait until open enrollment (they won't be able to enroll in benefits if they switch to an OPS or full-time after their student employment ends).

3. Supervisor of Elections

Tony Hayes reviewed senator openings for employee representation and Executive Board openings.

Nominations are being sought for Secretary and Treasurer positions on E-Board.

Tony Hayes reviewed the results of the senate representation audit.

The June Staff Senate meeting will be the time for nomination and vote to approve for Executive Board openings and new senator terms.

Tony Hayes will work with Angie Quenan to make website updates.

4. Committee Reports

ERAP

Michael Krueger provided follow up for the ERAP event. An event binder is under construction with information and instructions for the event. An ERAP event wrap up meeting will be held after Memorial Day.

Textbook Scholarship

Alycia Grieco provided updates on the Textbook Scholarship. Application for Summer 2019 scholarship will be open May 20 to 24.

5. New Business

Keaton West introduces Chip Chism to discuss road signage and visibility across campus. Senators noted specific areas of roads on campus where additional signage or other remediation may help with traffic concerns. Chism noted crosswalk signage went up about two years ago. In the time since, rumble strips and speed bumps have been added. Campus Police and Parking Services will take a look at areas of concern.

Regarding staff concerns about road conditions, Chism confirmed Parking Services will handle parking lot updates and Facilities will handle roadways.

6. Old Business

Keaton West reminded staff about the July 28 Staff Senate Retreat. The location will be at the IHMC building in downtown Pensacola. New senators should plan to attend most of the day. Returning senators should plan to attend the afternoon but may attend all day.

Angie Quenan needs to receive senator headshots to update the website.

Faculty Senate has approved updates to the Staff Senate Charter. Processes for approving new senators for annual terms will change in 2020.

7. Open Forum

Keaton West thanked senators for attending the May Staff Senate Social. Thank you to April Kocher for organizing. April Kocher will organize a June social event.

Alycia Grieco provided Argo Sports updates. Grieco encouraged staff to attend the Softball Super regional games to be held at UWF on May 14 and 15. If the team wins twice they will travel to the College World Series. Men's' Tennis and Golf travel to playoffs in the next week. Baseball begins their post season as well.

Keaton West shared senator facts with the group.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Brake, Secretary