

Minutes

UWF Staff Senate

Meeting

via Google Meet

University of West Florida

May 13, 2025

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

Attendance was taken by sign-in of Senators and online participants via Google Meet. The following Senators were present:

Patricia Barlow, Tori Bennett, Chip Chism, Nadya Collins, Sierra Ebert, Marisa Elmore, Zachary Farrington, Stephanie Fenner, Ann Gilbar, Brett Haskell, Ethan Henley, Brooke Karas, Mikey LeFevre, Sarah Madaris, Jenny Makselan, Angie Quenan, Heather Seitz, Monti Stone, Sandra Taylor, Megan Veach, Blythe Webster, Pam Weeks.

Proxy Attendance: N/A

Absent: N/A

Guests: Dr. Jaromy Kuhl – Provost; Jamie Sprague – Human Resources; Olivia Ashcraft, Alex Miller; Keyaundra Mobley; Ivan Zarate Rosas.

## **Administrative Reports**

### **1. Executive Report – Dr. Jaromy Kuhl – University Provost.**

- a. Staff Senate President, Ethan Henley, asked if Dr. Kuhl could address last week and this week with Dr. Saunders announcement. Dr. Saunders is still our President; will not change until the Board of Trustees decides on a timeline; now waiting on them to make those decisions. Senator At Large, Sierra Ebert, asked about the process for selecting a new President. Provost Kuhl shared one of the main functions of the Board of Trustees is selecting a President. There will be a search and people will apply. Jamie Sprague (HR) also shared there is a Florida Statute (1004.098) and Board of Governors Regulation (1.002) that governs how Presidential selections has to happen. General Counsel and Jamie Sprague will be working with the Board of Trustees. Right now, Presidential selection does not have to be part of the sunshine until they are ready to bring a finalist to campus. There is no minimum number of finalists that can be presented for a final interview. The Board of Trustees could also name an Interim President in the meantime.

## **2. Human Resources – Jamie Sprague**

- a. Memorial Day: early payroll processing by 3pm 5/21; approved by 10am on 5/22;
- b. Student minimum wage will increase to \$15/hour starting July 6<sup>th</sup>
- c. HR website updated with a new look and feel
- d. Working with Tony Lindberg to revise remote/flex program. Refer to June HR Bulletin for more information.
- e. Certificate training programs open; more to come; watch for Professional Development Bulletin
- f. Senator, Patricia Barlow, asked if there has been any discussion about changing holidays for the State in regards to DEI. Jamie Sprague shared the Federal government still has Juneteenth in the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) where the Federal holidays are documented. They have not given any indication of changes. Unless directed otherwise our holidays will stay as they are.

## **3. Approval of Minutes and Treasury Report**

Motion to approve April Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Tori Bennett.

Second by: Sandra Taylor.

Passed unanimously.

Staff Senate Treasurer, Brooke Karas, shared there are no updates to the Treasury Report.

## **4. Supervisor of Elections**

- Sandra Taylor presented the E-Board Slate nominees: President: Ethan Henley, Vice President: Zachary Farrington; Secretary: Angie Quenan; Treasurer: Brooke Karas; Supervisor of Elections: Sandra Taylor; Communications Officer: Marisa Elmore.
  - i. Motion to approve: Ann Gilbar
  - ii. Second: Chip Chism
  - iii. Passed unanimously.
- Sierra Ebert nominated Chip Chism for Senator At Large:
  - i. Second: Sandra Taylor
  - ii. Nomination to approve: Pam Weeks
  - iii. Second: Ann Gilbar
  - iv. Passed unanimously.
- Senators rolling off:
  - i. Patricia Barlow
  - ii. Tori Bennett

- iii. Heather Seitz
  - iv. Jenny Makselan
  - v. Blythe Webster
- Nominations:
  - i. Heather Seitz nominated Alex Miller; Second: Chip Chism
  - ii. Remaining nominations are from the Staff Senate Interest Form; Sandra Taylor nominated the following individuals:
    - 1. Olivia Ashcraft
    - 2. Keyaundra Moley
    - 3. Ivan Zarate Rosas
      - a. Second by: Chip Chism
      - b. Passed unanimously

## **5. Committee Reports**

- Employee Emergency Fund Committee – Staff Senate Treasurer, Brooke Karas, shared there are no new updates. Brooke shared a brief overview of the fund: it assists UWF permanent faculty and staff who request financial assistance due to emergency circumstances. Additional information can be found on the Staff Senate website.
- ERAP – no updates.
- Hand to Paw – Blythe Webster –no updates.
- Holidayfest – Ethan Henley – no updates.
- Textbook Scholarship Committee – Sierra Ebert – the application will open next week (May 19<sup>th</sup>) until the following Sunday; award is a reimbursement; award amount is up to \$100.

## **6. New Business**

## **7. Old Business**

- a. Juneteenth Event, sponsored by the Black Employees Association, will be held on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1pm in the Commons Auditorium.
- b. Argo Pantry Food Fight – Faculty won the competition this year.

## **8. Open Forum**

- a. Senator, Pam Weeks, had a few constituents reach out about where to find breakfast (i.e. sausage biscuits, grab & go options) on campus. Staff Senate President Ethan Henley indicated he would pass along the comment to VP Bowers.
- b. Pam Weeks also shared Safety Week is in June and departments can reach out for training opportunities.
- c. Ethan gave the new Staff Senate nominees the opportunity to introduce themselves and/or share a fun fact. Olivia Ashcraft: works in DAESA in the office of Design &

Communication; senior graphic designer; interested in participating in Staff Senate since she participated in LEAD; fun fact: has a cat name Archie; Ivan Zarate Rosas: has been at UWF for 2 years, works in Research Administration & Engagement; daughter attends daycare on campus; mother-in-law graduated from UWF in 1990; is also a student here and is excited to be part of Staff Senate; background is in higher ed and moved from California; Keyaundra Mobley: works in Financial Aid; is currently in grad school at UWF and was interested in Staff Senate.

- d. Staff Senate President, Ethan Henley, took the opportunity to address the last couple of weeks at UWF; Ethan shared he has been working with Dr. Saunders in this position and she has been a fierce advocate for UWF and a transformational leader since she became President in 2017; UWF is arguably in the best position it has ever been in its history – record enrollment; numerous accolades, new rankings and designations; record breaking fundraising and we have seen so much good from her leadership and current administration. We all play a pivotal role in the success of the institution. We are here for our students and our mission and we will continue our work. Moving forward Staff Senate E-Board will work on what ways to improve our advocacy work for staff. We will continue to move forward and be successful. Sierra Ebert also shared to continue to support financially whatever way they can, and the main goal is supporting the students and each other. Ann Gilbar also shared a thank you to Ethan for his leadership and being positive.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Quenan – Secretary

**Staff Senate Executive Board**

President- Ethan Henley

Vice President – Zachary Farrington

Supervisor of Elections- Sandra Taylor

Secretary- Angie Quenan

Treasurer- Brooke Karas

Senator at Large- Sierra Ebert

Communications- Marisa Elmore