Staff Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** November 9, 2021 / **Location:** Russell Building, Room 318

**Attendance:** Bryanna Allsbury, Jeni Maple, Jennifer Moore, Alisha Ridenour, and Samantha Rogers

Absent: Kelly Hawthorne and Ami Towne

# Call to Order

Chair Allsbury called the meeting to order at 1:59 p.m. and took roll

# Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2021

Senator Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Staff Senate Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Ridenour and passed unanimously.

# Officer Reports

* Chair (Bry Allsbury): Updates will be covered in old and new business.
* Chair-Elect (Jeni Maple): No report at this time except that Nomination & Recognition Committee will meet November 11.
* Past Chair (Alisha Ridenour): No report at this time.
* Archivist (Samantha Rogers): Senator Moore brought multiple binders of Staff Senate information, and Senator Rogers asked if the information should be included on the Staff Senate website. Following discussion, it was decided that the information should be saved on the Staff Senate shared drive rather than on the website. Senator Ridenour mentioned that historically there was a binder for each office position, and Chair Allsbury added that if these binders can be located, it would be helpful going forward.
* Treasurer (Ami Towne): Absent but submitted email update prior to meeting indicating there has been no change since the previous report.
* Parliamentarian (Jennifer Moore): No report at this time.
* Secretary (Kelly Hawthorne): Absent

# Committee Reports

* Committee on Committee (Co-Chairs: Senator A Ridenour and Christala Smith):
  + Senator Ridenour reported that the Committee on Committees has reached out to the University Affairs and Nomination & Recognition committees with instructions to meet and develop bylaws and provided the Committee on Committees bylaws as a model. In mid-January after the holidays, the Committee on Committees will follow up with the other committees to check progress and provided any needed support.
* The University Affairs Committee and Nomination & Recognition Committee will hold their first meetings on November 11.

# Old Business

* Senator Allsbury referenced the following items of Old Business from the agenda and encouraged referring to the September 14, 2021 meeting minutes for additional information:
  + Vacant Senator position filled
  + Telework Policy and revisions
  + COVID protocol for SE
  + Vaccine Incentive Policy
    - Deadline extended; about 50% participation rate, though Senator Ridenour said she believed the rate was a little lower.

# New Business

* Voting Items
  + No voting items on the agenda
* Discussion Items:
  + Vaccine Mandate

Chair Allsbury invited discussion of the vaccine mandate from the federal government, though no guidance has been provided regarding whether it applies to Southeastern and similar schools. Specifically, Chair Allsbury asked the group for thoughts on how the staff would respond if the mandate is determined to apply to Southeastern. After discussion, the consensus seemed to be that there are staff members with strong feelings on both sides of the issue, so it would not be possible/appropriate to develop a unified statement on behalf of all staff.

* + - The group also brainstormed ideas to assist and support the staff if the mandate is determined to apply to Southeastern, including positive messaging, helping identify resources in community for people who choose to leave (perhaps with the Career Management Center), helping fill in with short-handed offices, and arranging for the RUSO attorney to explain the mandate, rules, etc.
  + Holiday Bonuses

Senator Ridenour suggested Staff Senate draft a thank you resolution to President Newsom for the holiday bonus, and everyone agreed. Senator Ridenour volunteered to draft it.

* + Salaries

Senator Ridenour said she believes the Staff Senate should advocate for increasing all part-time staff to $10/hour (from the current $8.05). The low rate for part-time staff also is prohibitive in discussions of raising student worker wages.

* + Homecoming

Senator Ridenour mentioned that she received multiple questions at Homecoming about a Staff Senate booth/tent and recommended we consider participating next year.

* + Recognition Ceremony

Senator Ridenour also mentioned that several people asked her about an annual faculty/staff recognition ceremony. Chair Allsbury said that will be something for the Nomination & Recognition Committee (and probably the University Affairs Committee as well) to work on and coordinate with Faculty Senate.

* + Care Team

Chair Allsbury shared that Senator Bridwell’s last report showed $154 in Care Team funding. There was discussion of having regular drives for donations or perhaps an annual fundraiser to support the Care Team.

# Announcements

* Next Staff Senate meeting date: December 16, 2021
* Next Executive Committee meeting date: December 14, 2021

# Adjournment

* The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.