

# Southeastern Staff Senate

# NEWSLETTER

October 2022

## Announcements and Reminders

- The Strategic Planning Committee held a faculty and staff town hall on Oct. 10 to collect ideas and feedback. Comments can still be submitted to the committee through an online form. [Click here to submit your ideas!](#)
- The Staff Senate hosted two successful events for Homecoming: a photo booth during the lunch on the lawn and a table with baked goods in Tailgate Alley. A big thank you to everyone who donated baked goods and/or helped with the events!
- The Business Affairs division has created a working committee to review the student employment process which will have its first meeting this week. Please send any concerns regarding student employment to Tony Lehring (tlehring@se.edu) or Ami Towne (atowne@se.edu).
- Open enrollment for 2023 benefits will end Oct. 31 at midnight. Enrollment is passive, so 2022 information will roll over if you do not login and make changes. However, you are required to login if you need to make changes to your benefits or beneficiaries or if you have a flexible spending or dependent care election.
- Open pre-enrollment for Spring 2023 began Oct. 31. Business holds were applied last week to student accounts who still owe Fall 2022 balances, and a student's bill must be below \$500 to enroll.
- The next Executive Committee meeting will be Nov. 8, and the committee will meet with President Newsom and Vice President Westman on Nov. 28.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.

## Updates from October 27th Staff Senate Meeting

With the 10-year HLC accreditation visit scheduled for November 2023, the Staff Senate will be working to ensure staff are informed of the process and the ways they will contribute, which may include providing data for the report and participating in meetings with peer reviewers during the on-site visit. One of the first important ways staff can contribute is helping to ensure the university website and directory are accurate and up-to-date. The Staff Senate also discussed concerns from some staff regarding the telework policy. Human Resources reported that no staff have submitted requests for partial or 100% telework, but there are concerns that not all staff may be aware of the final approved process as well as questions regarding how the feedback from faculty and staff were used. The Executive Committee will work with the administration to ensure the staff is informed of the policy, and the University Affairs Committee will review the policy to examine how feedback from staff and faculty was addressed.

**The Executive Committee** is working on a proposal to include the shared governance policy and addition of staff-led forums in the employee handbook. The committee is also continuing to consider topics for the first staff-led forum on Feb. 9. One topic under consideration is the role of staff in the upcoming HLC accreditation visit, and Dr. Teresa Golden attended the last committee meeting to share an overview of the accreditation process.

**The Committee on Committees (CoC)** met with the chairs of the other committees to discuss goals for the year and ways the CoC might be able to help or support them. The CoC is also reviewing proposed bylaw changes for the other committees.

**The Nominating and Recognition Committee (NRC)** is finalizing plans for an Unsung Heroes award to be presented each semester to celebrate the outstanding contributions of staff members working behind the scenes. The committee is currently working on the nomination form and a letter to faculty and staff to announce the award, criteria, and nomination process.

**The University Affairs Committee (UAC)** is continuing to explore issues with university student employment policies and will also examine the final telework policy.

## 2022-23 Officers

Jeni Maple, Chair  
Tony Lehring, Chair-Elect  
Alisha Ridenour, Past Chair  
Kelly Hawthorne, Secretary

Ami Towne, Treasurer  
Stacey Estep, Archivist  
Jennifer Moore, Parliamentarian

## 2022-23 Committee Chairs

Executive: Jeni Maple  
CoC: Alisha Ridenour  
NRC: Natalie Weaver  
UAC: Shawn Ridenour

