

Staff Senate Meeting
August 21, 2020 10 AM
McCandless Hall

Present: Chris Latham (Presiding Officer), Kimberly Braden, Joy Clark, Pamela Clark, Barbara Ferguson, ~~Beth Jenkins~~, Kayla Kohanek-Tankersley, Regina Kyle, Morgan Meadows, ~~Chris Moss (Senator at Large)~~, Felicia Mucci, Debbie Wilson

Chris Latham called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and approved with no changes.

Old Business:

1. New Staff Mentoring Program. Discussion:
 - a. Regina Kyle reported that HR Dept. members – Sims, Smith – agreed to include the new staff mentoring participants in with the faculty mentoring orientation session. The session will likely be held via Zoom web conference. After the Zoom orientation session, mentors will work to schedule a “Meet & Greet” to get those paired acquainted. It was suggested that a *Quick Reference Guide* be developed to include important points of contact, as well as, links and info to other essential university information.
2. Staff Appreciation Box Lunch Follow Up. Discussion:
 - a. The appreciation luncheon received positive feedback from staff members across the campus. It was noted that it is very problematic for staff members located off campus to attend; it was proposed that for future events such as this, a Staff Senate member will make a delivery to them.
3. Staff Feedback/Concerns Related to Covid19
 - a. Numerous staff members expressed interest in having a full staff discussion with Dr. Way regarding Covid19 concerns. Dr. Way agreed to participate in a full discuss with Cabinet members present. He requested Chris send him specific questions/concerns so that the Cabinet can be briefed and readily prepared to address those concerns. Chris will follow up on this to accommodate for anonymous submission of the questions and concerns.
 - b. Health Check – just a reminder that staff members should complete the Health Check screening daily; data administration goes to UAB; the file goes to Dr. Ferguson where those who have exposure concerns can be monitored; CLL staff still has questions about screening visitors in their building – they will reach out to HR for guidance;

New Business:

1. Performance Evaluations of Administrative Positions. Discussion:
 - a. Surveys currently go out for evaluation of the Deans, Provost, and President, but not for the departmental VP’s. Staff members would like to know why university VP’s are no longer being evaluated, and would like to see this process reinstated. Chris Latham agreed to review the Policy Library on this topic and discuss with HR the possibility of reactivating that policy.
2. Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser. Discussion:
 - a. Senate Members would like to continue their annual Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser. A few ideas were mentioned for a specific event, but nothing specific could be determined at this time. The topic was *tabled* for later discussion.

Departmental Concerns: Discussion:

1. Open Letter to ASU Faculty – Chris Latham shared the open letter, published by Heritage Protection of North AL, that was addressed to faculty. The concerns in the letter centered around the recent removal of historic artwork from Kares Library. The letter was signed by over 100 concern citizens and Dr. Way has agreed to continue the discussion with the group regarding the removal of the artwork.
2. It was noted as a concern that Fall Convocation included several faculty promotions & recognitions, but there were no staff promotions or recognitions. There have been several staff position advancement requests over the past months, but none have been confirmed.

Announcements from Senate Members:

1. Transfer Day will be modified; it will consist of a week long virtual (daily) sessions.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Debbie Wilson.

Debbie Wilson