



STAFF SENATE

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

Staff Senate Meeting
September 14, 2023 11:00am
McCandless Hall- Griffin Auditorium & Zoom

Present: Pam Bridges, Kim Dunnivant, Beth Jenkins, Carolyn Carthen (zoom), Diego Chulan (zoom), Kathryn Doaty, Ben Dumas, Donna Holland, Amber Martinez, Whitney Michael, Valerie Sellers, Amber Skantz, Proxy-Deshanda Bailey (Elaine McGill)

Absent: Elaine McGill

1. **Order-** Meeting called to order by Amber Martinez.
2. **Minutes-** The minutes were accepted and approved.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. Cabinet will attend November 17th senate meeting
 - b. Fall 2023 Meet & Greet – ALSO, CEED, and Testing Center-Sept. 14th
 - c. Spring 2024 Meet & Greet – to be hosted by 3rd floor of McCandless
 - i. Kares Library is interested in hosting in the future per Amber Skantz
 - d. 2023-2025 senators were introduced
 - i. Election for presiding officer for 2023-2025 was held between Kim Dunnivant and Amber Martinez. Amber Martinez elected presiding officer, Whitney Michael volunteered to serve as secretary.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Dr. Joseph Chandler & his wife, Tonya, spoke to the staff about the Ava Grace Foundation and their personal experience that brought them to launch the foundation.
 - i. Dr. Chandler provided information and his family's experience with UPD-14.
 - ii. A website was provided to learn more: <https://www.avagracefoundation.org/>
 - b. Fall Fundraiser-Monday, October 30th
 - i. Upon Dr. Chandler's departure, discussion on this year's fall fundraiser recipient was held, and a vote was called for Ava Grace Foundation to be this year's recipient. Majority vote carried.
 - ii. Fall Fundraiser Committee presented discussion and ideas from meeting held August 31st.
 1. A Chili Cook-off will be held again with a \$5 entry fee and \$5 donation to eat/vote. Senators will sign up to provide sides--crackers, cheese, sour cream, etc.
 2. A Bake Sale will be held with sign-ups included in chili registration link. No charge to provide a baked good. Baked goods will be priced by senators as fit.
 3. Pumpkin Decorating Contest will be held again. Free will donation will be given as votes for the best pumpkin.

4. Jeff Powers, from HR, will again provide a Q&A session along side the event, with questions gathered in advance from staff.
- c. Jennifer Mares-Presented Secret Santa program among staff.
 - i. The program is completely voluntary and would be held across four days, December 4th-7th.
 - ii. Jennifer will send out an application for staff who would like to join. Applications will be due November 15th to provide ample time for participants to shop.
 - iii. Days 1-3, a \$1-\$3 gift would be purchased and provided to Jennifer to deliver. Day 4, the last gift will be purchase at \$20. Participants will be gathered in a room to open the last gift and guess/discover who is their Secret Santa.
 - iv. A vote was called to support Jennifer launching this program. Majority vote carried.
- d. Departmental Concerns/Announcements from Senate Members
 - i. Amber Skants-Presented a question from her department: Can we look into creating a Student Worker Supervisor Support Group for faculty and staff?
 1. Amber Martinez will check with Liz Bowden on what is already in place and what can be done to help facilitate this.
 2. Diego Chulan stated that there is a group/page in the Portal for Student Worker Supervisors.
 3. Beth Jenkins suggested to collaborate with Hugh Long, Faculty Senate President, to create a better communication flow between staff and faculty.

Concerns/Announcements

Meeting Adjourned- Meeting adjourned. Minutes recorded by Whitney Michael.