

# Staff Senate Committee Reports

## April 15, 2020 General Senate Meeting

### Chair Report, Ben Tucker

- Election and Chair Position

There will be a discussion at this meeting regarding the postponement of elections, thus extending terms of office for Staff Senators. Regretfully, I was unable to get permission from my supervisors to extend my time in Staff Senate. Thus, I plan to vacate my position as Chair of the Staff Senate after the May meeting, and plan to schedule a vote for a successor at that meeting. I have found the time I spent as Chair of the Staff Senate to be *extremely* rewarding. It has been an honor to serve the staff members and their senate, and look forward to supporting the next chair.

- Board Report

The Staff Senate's first report to the Board of Trustees will be submitted on April 24. It will be drafted using reports from other stakeholders as examples. PLEASE contact me with any suggestions.

- Ongoing meetings with leadership

Vice-Chair Sarah Johnson and I have continued our meetings with Pres. Crawford, and Sherry Mondou, Cindy Matern, and Joanna Carey Cleveland.

- Budget Considerations response to the President

Pres. Crawford asked for input regarding budget considerations (see attached) by April 27. Again, PLEASE contact me with comments ASAP.

### Vice Chair Report, Sarah Johnson

Nothing to report.

### Secretary Report, Frank McNeilly

Nothing to report.

### Treasurer Report, Heather Bailey

\$11035.79 in regular budget, scholarship budget at \$606.37.

# Compensation Committee Report, Carol Odland

Nothing to report.

# Elections and Governance Committee Report, Tina McLeod

## ELECTIONS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

### Report to Staff Senate

**Staff Senate Meeting: April 15, 2020**

**Elections and Governance Committee** – Tina McLeod (Chair), Derek Beuning, Moe Stephens, Rachel Sizer-Williams, Kelli Delaney, Emily Mullins, Sage Haynes

Committee last met on April 6, 2020. Committee meeting notes are saved in the Staff Senate shared drive: <V:\Staff Senate Information\Elections & Governance Committee\Elections & Governance Committee Meetings and Agenda>

Election and Governance Committee believes that general elections for senate seats needs to be postponed. We are at a point where difficult decisions will be made that could potentially negatively impact the lives of many of our fellow staff members. The last thing on many people's minds, as they care for themselves and families during this coronavirus pandemic, will be the staff senate elections. In this unprecedented time, we need not to lose sight of equity, justice, and inclusion in the name of efficiency.

The first priority of the Staff Senate is to continue to advocate for staff. Since the majority of our staff members are either working from home or not working at all at the moment, the Elections & Governance Committee believes we need to postpone the Staff Senate general election process. We want all of our staff members to have the opportunity to consider serving as a Senator, and the current situation does not create an optimal environment for involvement.

We believe that the general elections process - which includes recruitment, nominations, verification of eligibility, approval from supervisors, voting, and the on-boarding of new senators – is best done when staff and university operations are in a more familiar setting.

### **PROPOSED MOTION:**

Today (4/15/2020), the Elections & Governance Committee moves to (1) suspend Staff Senate Bylaws, Article V (Committees), Section 5 (Election and Governance Committee), Part C and E, and postpone the 2020 general election of senators; and (2) suspend Article IV (Staff Senate Organization and Governance), Section 1 (Elections and Terms of Office), Parts A, B, and G, and extend the terms of service of those senate seats which are set to expire in May 2020 for up to one year of additional service; and that said postponement and extensions will be revisited by Staff Senate during Fall 2020 semester.

Election & Governance Committee members have been reaching out to all senators via email, with follow-up communication, to share our position; and through that process created a Q & A document to help the committee and Staff Senate as a whole look at the situation of elections from multiple lens. Here is link to that document:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lEqn1eq7NDARvdTffdAqfoY6o1HjSVWu\\_zKVhu0AoCE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lEqn1eq7NDARvdTffdAqfoY6o1HjSVWu_zKVhu0AoCE/edit)

## Human Resources Policies and Practices Committee Report, Landon Wade

Nothing to report.

## Public Relations Committee Report, Mike Pastore

Nothing to report.

## Special Events Committee Report

Held virtual meeting to discuss the cancellation of Spring 2020 Gift Basket Raffle. Also discussed was the Rosa Beth Book Scholarship. This will be discussed with Staff Senate during new business.

## Staff Recognition Event Report, Jason Rotchstein

The Staff Recognition event scheduled for May 22 has been cancelled. At the request of Cabinet, we are working on a “virtual” Staff Recognition Event that will consist of an email message to all staff with a link to a webpage with additional content. The plan is to feature a message from President Crawford, list the retirees and years of service honorees and the Excellence in Action Awards. The goal is to send it out by the end of the semester but the exact date has yet to be determined.