

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS **STAFF SENATE**

Date: 8/15/2024

Meeting begin time: 9:33 AM

Call to Order

Old Business: July Minutes Approved

New Business:

President of UMAR, Carolyn Ranta attended the meeting today and gave information about the organization. She stated Patty Bladen will be our representative. Carolyn stated the three most important things the organization believed in were

1. **Have fun** – Steve Ross arranges one movie a month at no charge to members
2. **Stay Connected** – stay connected through news letters and monthly outings.
3. **Give Back** – organization gives back though a cash award to the Grad. Student who demonstrates the greatest need.

It was discussed having a Staff Senate Representative attend their meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am – 11:30. TK Buchanan was nominated and voted as the member to attend by unanimous vote.

During the executive meeting prior to Staff Senate meeting, it was discussed that Staff Senate should have representation on the Board Trustees. This is on the agenda that is in place for discussion with President Hardgrave. UMAR will support our efforts on this.

Discussion around doing the satisfaction survey annually instead of every 2-3 years has administration has stated it would be done.

Discussion around compression & compensation

Discussed FSLA threshold – There is no definitive answer/statement because of so many legal challenges.

Fate of work from home

Discussed the idea of having the University President giving a State of the University Address after the Christmas holidays. Would be the president and anyone else in management that we think can give an accurate accounting of the issues on campus. CFO? Provost? COO? Have Joe Birch moderate. Open for questions (pre-screened).

Kaleb gave financial update. Total funds available are \$8900.00.

Discussed setting up a potential book scholarship for staff members.

Kristen with the Public Relations committee discussed some description changes, website updates and weekly updates.

Francis with the Issues committee updated that committee had first meeting and discussed target areas.

1. Compensation
2. Parking
3. Career Advancement
4. Creating an Ombudsman position
5. Staff clusters

They plan to have two actions items by December. TK Buchanan will be point of contact for Disability issues

Amanda Rodino names Chair for By-Laws committee

Lindsey Crews Named Chair for the Election Committee

George Palton named chair for Advisory Committee

George moved to make motion to create working group. Motion was accepted and vote was take and passed.

Motion made to determine and defined agenda for this year – Kristen moved to accept & Lindsey seconded.

Will be 6 points on the agenda but there was no discussion of what those topics will be at this time.

Motion made to swear George Cotton in as senator for cluster O. Motion approved and seconded.

Other new Business:

Kristen made motion for vote on creating a Momentum Campaign to fund a possible book scholarship for staff and a child scholarship to the campus schools.

Lindsey called for the motion and Melissa seconded motion.

If this is going to be long term commitment then it should be included in the By-Laws.

Ideally we would like this to be an endowed account which will take longer to be able to award funds. We believe it is a minimum of \$30k for an endowed scholarship. UMAR says they will help as they are able.

A vote to create a working group passed unanimously.

Michelle Drye – Voter Registration Drive – 9-17-24 10-2 Will be the same as the National Registration date. Shelby County Election Committee will be on hand and SGA will be involved as well. Last Year there were 100 students registered. Will have voter machines,

The Executive Committee met last week and have several items will need collective bargaining.

We have a union on campus and a union rep will attend the September meeting. Could we help with a membership drive?

United Campus Workers Union or Campus Workers United and they have many sign-up events. The cost is \$18/month. Meghan Cullen and Amanda Lee Savage are representatives.

Heather Hampton stated that she needs volunteers for parent and family weekend.

It was discussed that everyone should start doing cluster meetings and have them at least twice a year.

Athletics – Demolition will begin on the West side of the Liberty Bowl.

Season opener in football will be Sat. August 31, 2024, against Northern Alabama.

Weeks of Welcome start next week and volunteers are needed for several events and please remember that the bridge walk also includes a picnic with the students.

There was a call for “Ask Me” Volunteers

Call for meeting to adjourn

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting September 19, 2024 in UC 261 From 9:30 to 10:30.