

FHSU STAFF SENATE

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

Stouffer Lounge and Zoom Meeting-1:30pm

- I. President Jennifer Whitmer called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm
- II. Roll Call of Members
 - a) **Present:** Nicole Frank, Pam Groff, Stephanie Johnson, Staci Kinderknecht, Liz Atwater, Jennifer Whitmer, Donna Augustine, Mark Grieve, Mimi Gallagher, Christopher Feldt, Bob Duffy, Erica Cline, Lisa Lang
 - b) **Alternates:** Falynn Rogers, Diana Staab, Debbie Allen, Lisa Morgan, Tyler Marcotte, Lacey Wegner
 - c) **Absent:** none
 - d) **Guests:** Ashley Parrott, Tobi Neuberger, Sara Dreher, Amy Gregg, Rachel Harman, Amber Kincaid, Miranda Schmeidler, Dr.Tisa Mason, Viv Zimmerman, David Cox
- III. Dr. Tisa Mason reported on legislative updates. Please see the last pages 2 pages after the minutes
- IV. Approval of Minutes:

The following correction was made:

XI. b) ii. II. Candidates should have a 2-minute speech prepared of who they are and why they want to ~~fun~~ run for the officer position

A motion was made by Lisa Lang and seconded by Mimi Gallagher to approve the meeting minutes as corrected from April 13, 2021. The motion was carried.
- V. Treasurers Report: \$1,056.90 in the foundation account for scholarships as of April 8, 2021.
- VI. Social Report: none
- VII. Orientation Report: 3/21/2021 to 4/17/2021
 - a) No longer with FHSU: Abigail Baker, Andrew Sheely, Dustin Engel, Nathaniel Walters
 - b) New to FHSU (includes promotions or job changes): Gregory Jordan, Alisha Otter, Madison Barrera, Shianne Clark, Miranda Schmeidler
- VIII. Cabinet Update: Jennifer reported:
 - a) Fort Hays Giving Day- got extended and raised over \$270,000
 - b) Enrollment: summer pre-enrollment down 5%; fall is a little muddy with the workday/tiger enroll reports as it's hard to track date to date with both systems-but for fall we are down 499 pre-enrolled students which are about 10%; they have relaunched stop out a program called "tiger comeback"
 - c) Facilities: Center for Student Success still on plan and furniture moves July 5; Rarick is behind schedule and movement starts 2nd week of June; the campus master plan is almost complete with the SmithGroup and more information can be found on the president's website

- d) Student affairs: periodic climate survey, specifically about DEI from the Hanover Research was sent out and we are reminded to take time to fill out the survey
- e) URM: ads on Spotify, web-streamed tv in Kansas City, Wichita, Oklahoma City; Convocation was last week and I was on the live stream with Tisa and shared governance
- f) Alumni: they are moving forward with an Advanced Model-one vision one voice-between Foundation and Alumni, so lots of position movements. Tammy Wellbrock will remain on staff for one more year as an interim director then they will do a search
- g) Athletics is winding down and Tiger Auction is on August 21

IX. Reports

- a) Staff Senate Committee
 - a. Bylaws Committee- Liz Atwater- Nothing to report
 - b. Goals Committee- Staci Kinderknecht – Nothing to report
 - c. Scholarship Committee- Jennifer reported collecting applications
- b) KBOR Groups/Committee
 - a. Satisfaction Survey Committee – Jennifer reported they met and had a good discussion on changing a few questions and adding comments; we will meet at the end of May
 - b. UPS Council- Jennifer reported
 - i. Emporia: coming back to campus May 17th and was given weeks notice-so lots of frustration with short notice and less flexibility
 - ii. Kstate: remote policy is being developed and piloted; discussion ongoing about reopening in August but some offices/units are struggling with all of the cuts made; morale is very low
 - iii. KU: transitioned to the new senate; no answer or plan for returning to campus; Provost sees the benefit of being flexible and the potential budget benefit of working from home-morale concerns are more related to budget than remote
 - iv. Pitt State: haven't announced reopen date yet, but sounds like mid-July; F2F commencement was last weekend of April
 - v. Wichita State: approved compensation for staff senate president and president-elect effective July 1, created flexible work arrangement options on their website, and will return to pre-pandemic operations June 1; F2F commencement this weekend and no update about the presidential search
 - vi. There is a big concern across different institutions that people will quit their jobs to find a more flexible work environment
 - vii. UPS Council is submitting a year-end recap to KBOR. Since we have elections at this meeting, we will share more of the report at our next staff senate meeting.
 - c. USSC Conference Call- Lisa Lang reported there was not a call
 - d. University Committees
 - i. Library- nothing to report
 - ii. Staff Development- nothing to report

X. Elections of Officers

- a) A motion was made by Liz Atwater and seconded by Bob Duffy to have Diana Staab and Falynn Rogers as the chairpersons for the officer elections. The motion was carried.
- b) President
 - a. Jennifer Whitmer was nominated and accepted the nomination

- b. No nominations from the floor
 - c. A motion was made by Liz Atwater and seconded by Lisa Lang to verbally elect Jennifer Whitmer to the office of President for the next senate year. The motion was carried
- c) Vice-President
- a. Staci Kinderknecht was nominated and accepted the nomination
 - b. No nominations from the floor
 - c. A motion was made by Liz Atwater and seconded by Bob Duffy to verbally elect Staci Kinderknecht to the office of Vice-President for the next senate year. The motion was carried
- d) Secretary
- a. Liz Atwater was nominated and accepted the nomination
 - b. No nominations from the floor
 - c. A motion was made by Jennifer Whitmer and seconded by Bob Duffy to verbally elect Liz Atwater to the office of Secretary for the next senate year. The motion was carried

XI. Elections of vacant job families

- a) Athletics, Sports, Fitness, and Recreation
 - a. Ashley Parrott was nominated and accepted the nomination
 - b. No nominations from the floor
 - c. A motion was made by Ashley Parrott and seconded by Tobi Neuburger to verbally elect Ashley Parrott as a Senator. The motion was carried.

XII. Old Business

- a) New Committee member for University Library Committee
 - a. Erica Cline appointed for a 3-year term

XIII. New business

- a) FHSU is the KBOR Host School for 2021-2022

XIV. Miscellaneous:

- a) Summer Hours begins May 24
- b) Return to campus and removing COVID guidelines June 1st
- c) Campus cookout and celebration June 2nd on the Quad
- d) Staff Senate meetings will continue to be second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm. Location will be in the Union, however, rooms may vary based on availability.

XV. Next Meeting Tuesday, June 8, 2021 Zoom, and Pioneer Room- 1:30 pm

XVI. Adjournment: A motion was made by Mimi Gallagher and seconded by Lisa Lang to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 PM. The motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Liz Atwater
University Staff Senate Secretary

Dr. Mason's Talking Points for Staff Senate

May 11, 2021

The Budget

- Still in process
- The process began with the Governor's Budget
 - Reduced higher ed by 10% which is about \$3.5 million for FHSU
 - Proposed state employee pay raises but carved out higher ed
 - \$10.3 million given to KBOR to use at their discretion – they chose to use those funds to address deferred maintenance issues
- Coming out of the conference:
 - Gained \$24.9 million – which reduces the 10% reduction proposed by the governor to 2.5% which is about \$875,000 for FHSU
 - \$10.3 million for deferred maintenance stayed in
 - Removed all state employee raises
 - Deferred until omnibus: initiatives to refund students who took online classes
 - Added \$1.4 million for the National Guard Scholarship Program for FY 2022
- Governor
 - Supported the increase of \$24.9 million for higher ed
 - Took out the \$10.3 million for deferred maintenance
- Omnibus:
 - May apply to some of our students:
 - Additional tuition funding for spouses and dependents of public safety officers
 - Addition aid for some FASFA students via the comprehensive grant
 - Added \$10M for need-based scholarship aid and recruitment (do not know what this means) provided in-person classes remained in-person classes, refunds due to students were direct reimbursements, and we follow the board policies for deferred maintenance. ***This language is very murky and limited – as a result, we may walk away.***
 - Added \$15 M for the operating grant restricted for
 - utility reimbursement:
 - We recently received our natural gas bill. We were more fortunate than our colleagues as our bill was approximately \$90,444 more than typical in February. Thanks to our efficient energy management system, we were able to convert to diesel for seven days. That ability made a significant difference.
 - staff buy-outs – we are not doing
 - retention and recruitment (KUMC) – no idea what this means
 - economic development

- scholarships – our area of focus
- Until the budget is adopted – we do not plan to finalize our decisions on compensation adjustments moving forward as:
 - We are balancing state reductions to our base and KBOR tuition dynamics
 - Working hard to reverse our enrollment decline
 - The budget strategy of planning for a 7% reduction was effective; still waiting on summer student credit hours but currently sitting at about a 3.5% reduction
 - Managing some influx of one-time federal dollars due to COVID
- Once there is more certainty on the state budget, I will send a campus announcement regarding what we can do regarding salaries for the upcoming year.

Tuition

- Board has requested no tuition increases – although some institutions may put forth an increase we are proposing no increase for 21-22.
- Student fees – we applied our longstanding practice of increasing institutional fees by 1.9%; the SGA decreased several fees and increased a couple of fees – with the net result being a .18 cent per credit hour decrease in fees