

ECU Staff Senate Minutes

Date: August 13, 2020

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: Webex

**Call to Order:** Senator Michelle Bone

**Roll Call:** Senator Debbie Pettaway

**Guest Speakers:**

***Interim Chancellor Dr. Ron Mitchelson*** – Campus Update

Administration will strengthen the relationship with Staff Senate by meeting monthly with the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will present questions from the senate during the monthly meetings. Dr. Mitchelson will also attend Staff Senate monthly meetings to provide campus updates (if he is not available, a vice chancellor will attend in his absence).

Despite COVID-19, the University made the decision to open to best meet the educational needs of the students in addition to meeting the needs of the community. Our mission is to serve, and we can achieve that mission more effectively face to face. Administration has put policies and resources in place to protect students and employees during this time. Although some have tested positive, the rate is just 4% of the entire ECU population which is much lower than the state average. Unfortunately, without students here on campus, there are severe disruptions to our revenue streams, and we need to protect our assets as much as possible. Dr. Mitchelson will be attending a hearing after the staff senate meeting which will determine if the university can proceed with on campus instruction. Enrollment is great and increased by 300 students compared to last fall. In addition, we have the largest retention rate in ECU’s history and the Chancellor thanks everyone for their hard work.

In terms of budget, the state budget is solid for this year however, in fall 2021, there will likely be a budget cut of 10%. Planning for the budget cut is underway and a fiscal sustainability committee will be created which will include representation from various departments across campus. The Chancellor search is underway, and the goal is to have someone selected by January 2021. The search committee will recommend two names however, the President of UNC Systems, Peter Hans, has the authority to add two additional names meaning there could potentially be four finalists.

**Nominated Executive Committee Officer Comments:**

Nominees for each position are listed below. Each nominee had the opportunity to introduce themselves and state why they would be the best candidate for the position. The link to vote will be sent immediately after the meeting and is due the following day by 12pm.

Chair Elect: Alex Dennis, Hector Molina, Lisa Ormond, and Joshua Rossnagel

Vice Chair: Alex Dennis, Hector Molina and Aisha Powell

Treasurer: Lisa Ormond

Secretary: Margaret Moody and Kristin Wooten

**Executive Committee Comments**

Chair – Senator Michelle Bone

* Staff Assembly Updates (Gary Killian)- The Staff Assembly signed a contract with a company that will lead the town hall meetings and the survey for the equity taskforce. Town Hall meetings will be centered around the focus areas that the task force is working on. People are encouraged to provide their input and email box has been set up for suggestions/feedback. All information regarding the taskforce will be shared with campuses.
* Thanks to everyone for a great year, looking forward to seeing the Senate’s growth in the future.
* Even if this is your last year as a senator, please continue to join the meetings and participate.

Chair Elect – Senator Todd Inman

* The Chancellor has agreed to supply masks for employees. More information is forthcoming.
* Community service hours will be confirmed with HR.
* Thanks to everyone for a great year and looking forward to serving as chair this year.

Vice Chair - Debbie Pettaway

* Staff Senate is a great resume builder and a rewarding opportunity. All nominees will do an excellent job and thanks to everyone for an amazing year.

Treasurer – Robin Mayo

* No comments

**Open Discussion:**

Transition process for new executive board- the new executive board will assume duties immediately after the election. The previous board will work with new members to share information and transition duties.

Minutes are delayed because we do not have a secretary at the moment. Minutes will be completed as soon as possible and will be sent to everyone for approval.

**Announcements:** Next Meeting – September 10th via Webex

**Link to meeting recording:** https://ecu.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/ecu/recording/playback/6f91ef4ee17c4635881297bd3679dcd9