

ECU Staff Senate Minutes

Date: January 13, 2022

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: Teams

**Call to Order:** Senator Hector Molina

**Approval of Minutes:** Kristin Wooten

December minutes were approved

**Guest Speaker:**

**Chancellor Philip Rogers** – University Update

Due to the Omicron variant of COVID, there have been many positive cases. Fortunately, the health impacts have not been as severe in vaccinated individuals. Leadership is continuing to monitor COVID data and will revisit safety measures in February. As of now 86% of students and 86% of employees are now vaccinated and the campus community has been compliant with re-entry testing requirements. Employees are encouraged to report positive results to the Office of Prospective Health and follow the Return of Pirate Nation guidelines.

Enrollment initiatives are ongoing, and we are developing methods to attract new students as well as adult learners and students who started ECU yet did not complete their degree. Methods to improve retention are also being assessed to ensure students remain at ECU. Will be discussing UNC Systems new program, Kitty Hawk, to improve distance education.

The Chancellor’s Commission on Diversity Equity and Inclusion was established to provide advice on forming subcommittees under this commission, leading the process for engaging the campus and surrounding community in open and honest dialogue, and ensuring delivery of a set of recommended outcomes for the campus community. The commission has completed two meetings which are currently focused on student access. Lastly, a memo will be released tomorrow to provide information on the fiscal sustainability initiatives.

**Kiana Price** **& Gloria Evans** – SEANC

SEANC is the State Employees Association of NC with two districts here in Pitt County. The goal of SEANC is to advocate for state employees. Many issues that are addressed include health benefits, legislative increases, Clear Pricing Act, etc. For those who are members of SEANC, there are scholarships which can be used by the staff member, their spouse or their dependents. All information is located on the SEANC website, https://www.seanc.org/. Members also have access to supplemental insurance policies which can be payroll deducted. The membership fee is $14 a month and members will have access to various discounts.

**John Southworth** – Bylaws Change

The committee is proposing a change to the bylaws. This change is in regard to adding an ex-officio position from the Faculty Senate who will attend all Staff Senate meetings and share information from the Faculty Senate. In turn, the Faculty Senate will add an ex-officio seat for a member of the Staff Senate. If approved, this change will be added to section 1.4 of the bylaws. Members of the senate voted in favor for the bylaws change. Section E will be added to the bylaws under section 1.4.

**Executive Committee Comments**

Chair – Hector Molina

* Congratulations to Aisha for being recognized as one of ECU’s 40 Under 40.
* In need of volunteers for contact tracing.
* The DEI met last Friday and launched the Student Success and Access Committee. There are 20 members from across campus comprised of students, staff, and faculty. The first item to address is communication.
* In the Staff Assembly meeting there has been discussion surrounding career banding changes. For now, there will not be any changes. One major change is the expiration of COVID related leave exchange. You can no longer use vacation in place of sick time for absences related to COVID.
* In the process of drafting a thank you letter for the legislative body. The draft will be shared prior to sending.
* Thank you to everyone!

Chair Elect – Aisha Powell

* Information from the breakout session was reviewed and summarized into three separate themes. People are proud of ECU and its mission as well as the work environment. Challenges include burnout due to staffing issues in all divisions, management and policies, and communication. Suggestions to improve were pathways to promotion, opportunities for growth, and reviewing staff benefits and perks.
* The profit from the Staff Assembly Golf Tournament was $33,353.57 which will all go to scholarships for staff. We have asked the Chancellor to participate in the next golf tournament.
* As of January 10th, we have 25,804 students currently enrolled. Staff Senate will continue assisting with enrollment efforts.
* Committee Chairs will meet in February to review final goals for this term.

Vice Chair – Lisa Ormond

* We were asked to consider a retired staff organization. The HR Committee reviewed the faculty’s organization and collected information to evaluate and discuss with HR. If you have feedback or suggestions, please email staffsenate@ecu.edu
* Basketball concessions have begun, and we are in need of volunteers. Any ECU employee can access the sign-up sheet and non-ECU employees can also volunteer. This funding is important for funding scholarships.
* The polos will be distributed at both student centers. Aisha will distribute polos on East Campus and Lisa will distribute polos on Health Sciences campus. The time and date will be emailed to everyone.
* Committee chairs, please send your approximated cost for events to staffsenate@ecu.edu

Treasurer – Robin Mayo was nominated for the Treasurer position. The majority voted and Robin will serve as Treasurer until the end of her term in June 2022.

Secretary – Kristin Wooten

* No comments

Parliamentarian – Olivia Cottrell

* Special thank you to Ethan Norris for assisting with the chair duties.

**Committee Updates**

* Scholarship (*Erica Hoyt*)- The scholarship deadline is coming up, Jan 15th. Please share this information with those who may be interested.
* Rewards & Recognition (*Susan Eckert*)- The committee was not able to meet this month, however, we will meet next week.
* Diversity Committee (*Aisha Powell on behalf of* *Amy Bright*)- Currently working with OED for the March presentation in March to discuss diversity in our Staff body.
* Leadership & Professional Development (*Grace Tolson*)- Met with Dr. Rebecca Rogers to confirm that she will be the speaker. That event will be April 19th and she will discuss burnout. It will be face-to-face and livestreamed for those who would like to be virtual.
* Communication & Marketing (*Michelle Bone*)- Matt Smith has resigned and Michelle Bone has taken his place as Chair. The committee will meet next week.
* Bylaws (*John Southworth*)- no updates
* Membership (*Joseph Moore*)- Nominations for senators are ongoing. We are looking for nominations in all divisions. Please reach out to folks who may be interested or nominate someone. Nominations will close January 21st.
* Human Resources Committee (*Loretta McDaniel*)- Staff Emeritus nominations are currently under review by HR. The committee is still working on the Q&A sheet for flexible work arrangements. Working on revising a letter for the recognition ceremony employees who were not recognized during COVID.

**Open Discussion**

* No discussion

**Announcements: Next Meeting – February 17, 2022, 3pm-5pm via Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting Link: https://studentsecuedu66932-** https://studentsecuedu66932-my.sharepoint.com/personal/powellai\_ecu\_edu/Documents/Recordings/Staff%20Senate%20Monthly%20Meeting-20220113\_150011-Meeting%20Recording.mp4