

ECU Staff Senate Minutes

Date: October 8, 2020

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

**Call to Order:** Senator Todd Inman

**Roll Call:** Kristin Wooten

**Guest Speakers:**

**Vice Chancellor Sara Thorndike** – University Update

The state budget continues to remain stable however, the state did fund some reoccurring items on non-reoccurring funds in an attempt to sustain those areas until we were able to move past COVID and revenue streams returned. Due to the continued battle with COVID, it is unclear what next year’s budget will be and ECU is planning for possible different scenarios. Due to the size of UNC Systems, universities may face larger cuts than other state agencies. Despite the circumstances, the state funded side of the university is stable for now and we’ve been able to reduce the number of furloughs by reassigning employees in auxiliary areas.

The university lost 25 million in revenue this fall and it is likely we will lose 40 million total this academic year. Alternatively, some of the revenue decline was anticipated and the Chancellor as well as the Cabinet started saving as much money as possible which helped cover a substantial amount of this loss in revenue.

The university received 19.4 million in CARES dollars from the federal government. Approximately half was required to go to students to assist with financial needs. The other half covered losses from hosing and dining. An additional 4.3 million to purchase COVID related items such as technology, PPE, face masks, etc. Brody received 15 million from the state to support COVID research, treatment, and a possible vaccine. We will continue to be fiscally responsible and try to save as much as possible. There will be more furloughs in auxiliary areas in which revenue has decreased significantly.

**Chad Carwein** – ECU Sustainability

ECU has received numerous awards and recognition such as, Tree Campus USA and Bee Campus USA, throughout the past four years for sustainability efforts. We are a bike friendly campus and have added beehives on the health sciences Campus. We continue to work on improving our ratings in the STARS program which is recognized by the Princeton review. Out of 4000 universities in the US, ECU made the list for the first time in 2017 which is a powerful recruiting tool for students.

Governor Cooper signed Executive Order No. 80 in October 2018; this is a mandate to review statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 2005 levels. ECU sustainability reviews our gas emissions each year and we have decreased emissions significantly from 2019 to 2020. To achieve the goal of 40%, we need to continue to reduce our emissions by 2 to 3% for the next five years.

New recycling rules for Pitt County:

* Glass is no longer acceptable by ECVC which is our local recycling center.
* Many other common recyclables are no longer acceptable such as plastic bags, Styrofoam, pizza boxes, etc.

ECU works with several local community organizations such as Love a Sea Turtle, Keep Greenville Beautiful and ReLeaf. These groups are always looking for volunteers to attend events, take on leadership roles and assist with advocacy efforts. In addition, we manage the Greenville Community Garden with Love A Sea Turtle and are looking for volunteers to participate in workdays.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Sustainability Film Screenings, visit sustain.ecu.edu or @SustainECU on any of the social media platforms for more information. The presentation is available if anyone would like to see it.

**Executive Committee Comments**

Chair – Senator Todd Inman

* An email was sent out regarding senate representation on the Copyright Committee, we need 3 volunteers. The committee meets once a semester, sometime in December. Please email staffsenate@ecu.edu if you are interested.
* Five staff names were sent to Chancellor Mitchelson to serve on the Sustainability Committee. The Chancellor is working to finalize the committee plans and all committee work will be completed by February 2021. We will provide an update when the committee is finalized, and individuals are selected.
* An email was sent from our UNC Assembly Chair asking for speakers at one of the two town meetings (Oct 23 & Oct 28) held by the UNC System Racial and Equity Task Force. We hope someone from the senate reached out and updates regarding the meetings will be provided.

Chair Elect – Hector Molina

* Once in your subcommittee meeting, elect committee officers (chair, chair-elect, secretary), develop a minimum of 3 goals and set a meeting schedule. Please email your goals to staffsenate@ecu.edu and include the executive committee on your meeting invites.

Vice Chair – Aisha Powell

* We did not receive the mini grant from OED however, we encourage you all to review their website and ensure our work is aligned with their mission in creating a more inclusive and diverse environment.
* If you are unable to attend the meetings, you can provide your input at racialequity@northcarolina.edu.
* You can register online to vote, last day is Oct 9. There are early voting locations on campus, and we encourage you all to utilize these sites. Hand sanitizer will be provided at these locations, masks will be highly encouraged, and voters will wipe down areas and sanitize pens.
* As we breakout into committee sessions, when selecting committee goals, please keep the Staff Senate goals in mind and ensure your goals align with the Senate mission.

Treasurer – Senator Lisa Ormond

* No comments

Secretary –Kristin Wooten

* Roll call will be completed using the participant lists. Individuals who called in via phone need to email staffsenate@ecu.edu
* August & September minutes were approved.

**Parliamentarian-** Todd Inman

Darius Alexander is our new parliamentarian. He is a student here and he has experience with the Robert’s Rule of Order. Aisha did a lot of the research to make this possible! He will attend our next meeting and make sure our motions are in the correct order.

**Open Discussion**

* Have HR Committee work on a document to provide guidance regarding possible furloughs and unemployment
* Don’t forget early voting begins October 15th and ends October 31stVoting will take place at the Student Center and the Willis Building; anyone registered in Pitt County can vote at that location. Please feel free to reach out to Alex Dennis if you have questions.

**Announcements: Next Meeting – November 12 via Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting Link & Password:**

Meeting link is not available due to technical difficulties.