

ECU Staff Senate Minutes

Date: August 12, 2021

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

**Call to Order:** Senator Hector Molina

**Roll Call/Approval of Minutes:** Kristin Wooten

July minutes were approved

**Guest Speakers:**

**Chancellor Philip Rogers – University Update**

The House version of the budget draft was released to the media a few days ago and is being negotiated on the House floor at this time. Later today we should be able to compare the House, Senate, and Governor’s version of the budget. Once reviewed the Governor will decide whether to accept the budget or veto it. Employee salary increases are top priority and legislative leaders are advocating for across the board pay increases. There is 1.5 billion available for building funding which includes funds for a new medical school. The formal budget still must be passed but anticipate the budget being approved by October 1st.

The Return of Pirate Nation Committee has worked very hard to prepare for reentry for the fall semester. They have prepared a plan and the COVID Coordinating Committee has taken over and is working on methods to be proactive and reactive to challenges surrounding the pandemic as well as working on mitigation efforts. They are monitoring the rates of infection at the University and in the community to stay abreast and adjust as necessary. All individuals participating in on-campus activities must remain vigilant and compliant to preventative measures whether getting to vaccine or testing and wearing masks. The attestation survey has already received a 70% response rate and it provides a clear sense of where we are in terms of vaccination rates. Wastewater treatment is expanding, and we are working hard to navigate the next 4 to 6 weeks in the event of a surge. We will see an increase in numbers but are hopefully these numbers will decrease rather quickly.

The enrollment numbers are much higher thanks to the Summer MELT efforts. We have also seen an increase in the transfer student enrollment, but we must also focus on retention rates to ensure our students are returning and we are creating environment that allows them to thrive. We have approximately 5200 beds for housing and a few students on the waitlist. We anticipate housing will be at capacity this semester and are excited about move-in next week.

**ERG Leaders (Introduced by Aisha Powell):**

**American Indian Faculty and Staff Group – Aleshia Hunt**

Acknowledges the Tuscarora people and recognize their continuing connection to the land, water, and air Greenville consumes. Also pays respect to the eight state recognized tribes of North Carolina which are the Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of Saponi, Sappony, and Waccamaw-Siouwan. The group meets monthly and encourages the creation of University policies relating to the recruitment, hiring retention, professional development, and professional advancement of Indigenous faculty and staff. Upcoming events include: Dedication of the Indigenous Space on August 31st at 11am MCSC, monthly meeting on August 17th, ECU Indigenous Peoples’ Day on October 18th, Heritage Month Programming in November and ECNAO 28th Annual Powwow on March 26, 2022. If interested in the group, contact Aleshia at hunta@ecu.edu

**Chinese Association of ECU Faculty, Staff and Friends– Gili Zhang**

The focus of the Chinese Association is to serve the Chinese students, faculty, staff, visiting scholars and their families in acclimating them into the university and community environment. At present there are 302 members, yet Asian staff only comprise less than 1% of the staff population. There is room to grow however, 60% of the Asian staff are satisfied with the climate at ECU. The association operates the Greenville Chinese School which is a non-profit school that educates all ages that are interested in learning the Chinese language. Ask that the Staff Senate share more information about the association or interested individuals can contact Gili Zhang at zhangg@ecu.edu

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Faculty and Staff Group – Aaron Lucier**

Will have a welcome organization meeting on September 9th at 4:30pm at the MCSC 3rd floor deck which will also be shared via Announce. The social will be an opportunity to schedule regular meetings and elect group officials. The group is open to allies as well. Anyone who is interested in joining can contact Aaron at luciera@ecu.edu

**Organization of Black Staff (OBS) – Dorothea Mack**

The purpose of the organization is to provide a safe space for people of color to discuss issues on campus. The group gives people the opportunity to collaborate and work together on different projects. The Welcome Back Mixer will be held September 16th, 1:00pm-2:30pm at the MCSC Ballroom C. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and lunch will be provided. For more information you can contact Dorothea Mack at mackd@ecu.edu or Renita Harley at harleyr@ecu.edu.

**John Howard – University Ombuds**

The Ombuds office has been around for about two years and aims to serve all employees at ECU. The Ombuds is confidential resource for learning about organizational policies, leading people to the best resources/offices for issues, assistance in dealing with difficult situations or people, and even as a third-party conflict manager when multiple people need help working through issues. The Ombuds can also serve an organizational role in policy troubleshooting. Interested individuals can contact John at howardjo@ecu.edu or 328-5305.

**Jenny Gregory – Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW)**

Campus and Recreation has started a new membership structure which is a new two-tiered system. The system takes salary ranges into consideration and for those who make below $45,000 a year will pay half price for the membership which will just be $11 per month. If you make $45,000 or more you will pay $22 per month and have the option to sponsor a household member (spouse, child, etc.) for half the price of the standard membership fee. The goal is to make the membership more accessible for all employees. Family recreation will now be offered on the weekend (5pm Friday to 5pm Sunday), 4- to 11-year-old is $50 per semester and 12- to 17-year-old is $64 per semester. Equipment is available to rent for members and intramural sports is also an option. More information about the pricing structure is available on the Campus Recreation and Wellness website.

**Executive Committee Comments**

Chair – Hector Molina

* September meeting will be our first hybrid event
* We are still asking for volunteers for the student move in on August 18th, 8:45am-12:00pm. If you are interested, please email staffsenate@ecu.edu and provide your shirt size.
* Congratulations to the Summer MELT Ad Hoc committee for their efforts this summer. The events were well attended, and social media videos received hundreds of views. There is one more event and that will conclude this years’ activities.

Chair Elect – Aisha Powell

* No comments

Vice Chair – Lisa Ormond

* Aramark has asked us to volunteer at the beer hub for the football games. Will send an email asking for volunteers. The first game is September 11th, Lisa will send out more information and ask for volunteers. This is a great opportunity for Staff Senate.

Treasurer – Patrick Mitchell

* Purchased one item this past month so not much has changed. Kristin sent out the Treasurer’s report and it is available on our Teams site. Contact Patrick if you have any questions.
* Please donate to the school supply drive, we have boxes in various locations around campus. The deadline is August 31st and Staff Senate will deliver the supplies on Friday September 3rd.

Secretary – Kristin Wooten

* No comments

Parliamentarian – Olivia Cottrell

* Will serve as the parliamentarian for the 2021 – 2022 term. Olivia is a rising junior majoring in Finance and also serves as the Treasurer for SGA.

**Committee Updates**

* Bylaws (John Southworth) – working on the proposed bylaws change regarding member removal. Planning to partner with faculty senate and put an ex-officio senate member on the BOT committees.
* ​Membership (Joseph Moore) – discussed methods to address excessive absences at senate meetings. working to address underserved areas within the university. Will present more information on this topic at the next meeting. Also, working with Communications & Marketing to create the Staff Senate video.
* Communication & Marketing (Matt Smith) – finished four videos for the Summer MELT Ad Hoc committee. Added posts on social media about the upcoming events. Working with Creative Services to create an end of the year video. Lastly, exploring options for a newsletter.
* Rewards & Recognition (Kristin Wooten on behalf of Susan Eckert) – working on organizing the wellness walk which will be Oct 13th (rain date Oct 20th) at Lake Laupus. Also adding vendors to our Pirate Perks and making sure that information is up to date.
* Human Resources Committee (Lisa Ormond on behalf of Irina Swain) – will have someone from HR at the next meeting to discuss flexible work arrangements. Also, establishing a connection with faculty to senate to work together on issues.
* Leadership & Professional Development (Janet Turner) – met on Tuesday and discussed the B.A.L.L. event. Discussed the direction they want to go in and contacting prospective speakers. Would like to have the event in person but will also provide a virtual option as well. Also working on a leadership page that will promote different books/articles on leadership which will hopefully be available January 2022.
* Scholarship (Erica Hoyt) – established annual goals and have started their fundraising efforts. The Chipotle fundraiser will be Sept 18th at 5pm, be sure to mention Staff Senate when you order. Plan to participate in football, basketball, and baseball for additional fundraising.
* Diversity Committee (Aisha Powell on behalf of Amy Bright) – discussed continuing the roundtables and will use OED diversity data to plan for events. Would like to apply for the OED grant if it is available this year and would like to have staff senate book discussions to open dialogue for diversity discussions.

**Open Discussion**

* Details about the school drive can be found here: <https://staffsenate.ecu.edu/supply-drive/>
* Move-in is next week and information will be sent out regarding parking and areas that will be impacted. If you have questions, you can contact Josh Puckett at puckettjo15@ecu.edu.

**Announcements: Next Meeting – September 9, 2021 3pm-5pm via Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting Link:** <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/567ee4d4-d7ba-4880-831c-2edc4fd5a74a>