

Staff Senate Monthly Meeting

February 8, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

East Carolina Heart Institute Auditorium (ECHI)

In-person attendance for Staff Senators and Alternates

Virtual attendance available through [livestream link](#)

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Dana Lopez, Staff Senate Chair

Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. She shared meeting best practices with staff, guests, and those who attended virtually. Speaking is limited to senators, alternates, ex-officio members, and individuals who have been granted speaking privileges before the meeting. Senators should state their name and their division before speaking. Non-senators who would like to speak at future meetings can notify Staff Senate by emailing staffsenate@ecu.edu.

Roll Call

Christiana Shoopman, Staff Senate Secretary

A roll call was conducted to determine if a quorum was present.

Senators absent: Kimberly Aheimer (Administration and Finance), Lindsay Arnold (Academic Affairs), Dawn Boyd-Cribari (Administration and Finance), Margaret Dodson (Brody School of Medicine), SammyJo Fly (Academic Affairs), Patricia Highsmith (Brody School of Medicine), Jennifer Muir (Brody School of Medicine), Madeline O'Connor (Student Affairs), Aisha Powell (Academic Affairs), and Carla Williams (Brody School of Medicine)

Alternates present: Jenna Boardman (University Advancement), Summer Edwards (Academic Affairs), and Kristina Page (Student Affairs)

Approval of Minutes

Christiana Shoopman, Staff Senate Secretary

The minutes from the January 11, 2024 meeting were emailed to members of the Staff Senate. A correction and one addition were received. The correction was located on page 8, under the Recognition and Rewards Committee heading, and should state, "Rob Weatherly will provide a presentation on Servant Leadership during the week of April 22, 2024." The exact date had not been confirmed at the time of the January meeting, but has now been confirmed for Thursday, April 25, 2024. A proposed addition was made on page 9 under New Business regarding 300.4.1 – Policy on Interpersonal Relationships among Faculty, Staff, and Students to include, "This proposed update also further defines employment decisions and procedures, remedies, and reporting." The meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Campus Update

Dr. Philip G. Rogers, Chancellor

Chancellor Rogers welcomed the group and stated he enjoys being a part of the Staff Senate and hearing the topics on the minds of staff each month from the Executive Committee. He discussed his email message to campus regarding well-being, renewal, and restfulness, and encouraged staff to take care of themselves in order to be ready to engage in our important work and be physically, mentally, and intellectually strong leaders.

Chancellor Rogers explained the upcoming short session of the General Assembly and how it differs from the long session. The long session occurs during odd calendar years, and therefore last occurred in 2023. Typically, more money is available during the long session since that is the period when the N.C. legislature builds the biennium budget.

ECU was extremely fortunate in the last long session due to a focused and strategic legislative agenda. Some of the significant investments include, employees receiving a 7% increase in salary across the course of the biennium, with 4% in the first year, and an additional 3% in the second, funding to support our performance model regarding student success, support for rural medical residencies, and funds for repairs and renovations to go towards items such as new roofs, HVAC systems, and sidewalks on campus.

The legislature also budgeted \$500 million to launch the project NCInnovation. This effort supports research initiatives that faculty are leading with the goal to turn research ideas into business opportunities for commercialization. For example, Dr. Rukiyah Van Dross is developing cancer therapeutic drugs and alternative ways of responding to cancer challenges to potentially develop a pharmaceutical product that could be sold on the market. ECU is looking to scale these types of opportunities and serve as a regional hub with this investment.

ECU has also received funding to increase our primary care workforce, including dollars for clinical preceptorships for nursing students, funding to expand the class size of the Brody School of Medicine, dollars to create alternative ways to advance physician assistant educational practices, and funding to enhance the Psychological Assessment and Specialty Service Clinic, administered through ECU's Department of Psychology.

ECU received over one million dollars in funds to support the athletics program through sports gambling initiatives, \$200 million in new capital funds, to include another \$50 million to be added to the original \$215 million in funds for a new medical education building due to inflation changes related to building costs. Almost \$19 million has been slated to renovate the Leo Jenkins building and \$46 million to renovate the Howell Science Complex.

One of the most significant investments during the last legislative session was the partnership between ECU Health and UNC Health. We received over \$410 million in an allocation to transform rural health care in North Carolina.

The goal of the upcoming short session is to tweak the previous year's approved budget. The UNC System Office will focus on funding adjustments associated with the Performance-Weighted Enrollment Change

Funding Model. They will request money to assist with repair and renovations for older facilities on campus and will look at any time-sensitive needs that have arisen. The System Office will review the Board of Governors' approved priority list from the last session and determine what might be able to be accomplished during the short session. Chancellor Rogers has not seen the UNC System's advocacy list but thinks it may involve seeking recurring, yearly funds based on the performance funding model, instead of the current, non-recurring format for funding.

During the short session, ECU will repackage a number of items that were not funded during the previous legislative session. Those items will focus on funds to support student success initiatives, to include investing in more academic advisors and student success coaches, opportunities to advance the high-demand academic workforce programs, such as engineering, cybersecurity, and computer science, and initiatives to assist with enrollment and retention efforts. ECU will also be looking at merit-based scholarship funding, called Pirate Grants, to enhance affordability to attract and retain students at ECU.

The Board of Governors (BOG) has been interested in the Return on Investment (ROI) study conducted by the UNC System Office with the help of consulting firms. This study focused on documenting the return on investment that each of the UNC institutions provide to their students. The term return on investment relates to the amount a student spends on a degree versus how much they receive back in lifetime earnings. In December of 2023, the BOG submitted a letter with the results of the ROI study to the North Carolina General Assembly. ECU received an exceedingly high score on this study compared to other institutions across the state. More than 90% of ECU's undergraduate and graduate programs demonstrated a positive ROI, therefore, ECU can demonstrate through this data that we provide a good return on investment for our students. Additional information will be provided to address programs within the UNC system that have a low student return on investment. ECU will look at data for three undergraduate and five graduate programs that fall in this category.

Chancellor Rogers noted that the ROI study had some limitations. For example, it only considered students who graduated from ECU, and the other UNC System institutions, who stayed in North Carolina after graduation, because of their access to wage and earnings data for those students. The eight programs ECU will need to review fall in areas where students typically move out of the state for jobs after graduation. ECU will include this information when providing a response. Each university will also include actions to improve the student ROI, which is due by March 11, 2024. This response process involves the deans, department chairs, program directors, and faculty who are engaging directly with these students. That narrative will be provided to the UNC System Office.

Chancellor Rogers addressed misinformation circulating in the news regarding ECU's enrollment. He stated that ECU has seen growth in new student acquisition year over year. During the last two semesters, ECU had a 4% increase in new students. ECU also had a significant increase in out-of-state students last year. The retention rates of first-year students moving from their first semester to second semester are up to 92%. This is important from a funding standpoint because it will allow ECU to hit its graduation rate and degree efficiency goals in order to meet the performance metric goals.

In closing, Chancellor Rogers reminded staff that Pirate's Aboard will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. This is the day when admitted students visit campus. He urged staff to talk and welcome these students and their families and to reiterate how much we want them to choose to attend

ECU because we can provide a great educational experience. Staff can assist with this effort by answering questions and providing directions. Chancellor Rogers explained that he often hears from parents that their children were thinking about attending another university but chose ECU due to the gracious and welcoming environment at ECU. ECU will also host three admitted student Fridays on campus, on February 23, March 22, and April 19, 2024.

Discussion: Secretary Christiana Shoopman, from Academic Affairs, asked if the ROI study will be conducted each year and if there is any concern that programs with a negative ROI could be cut.

Chancellor Rogers replied that he thinks the ROI study signifies the beginning of developing a culture at the UNC System-level where there is continuous feedback in terms of academic programs, how we operate from an efficiency standpoint, and how we engage with the public. This will most likely continue as long as the narrative exists around the value of higher education and the public's trust. Based on comments from President Hans and the chair of the BOG, the data is not strong enough to justify making academic program decisions. This exercise focuses on how to improve our existing programs. ECU will need to carefully think about the metrics that will evaluate our business model. Every university of America is thinking about sustainability over the next 5-10 years, and we are being proactive in this regard.

Vice Chair Lauren Thorn, from Student Affairs, stated she appreciated the information about Pirates Aboard and the admitted student Fridays, as she knows headlines about higher education have mentioned how colleges are responding to the delay with FAFSA and how that might impact students making decisions about which school to attend. She asked if there had been any conversations or strategies ECU is taking to make sure we recognize the challenges that students, primarily from low-incomes, will face and how that will play a big part in their decision.

Chancellor Rogers provided background information related to Congress asking the Department of Education to simplify the FAFSA form, which stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students submit this form to determine their eligibility to receive financial aid. The task to simplify the form was not completed on time, and this has pushed back the date when data will be released to institutions to make financial aid decisions. Chancellor Rogers stressed the importance of releasing this information in a timely manner so that students can make decisions on which institution to attend. Having FAFSA data released in March, with the enrollment deposit deadline of May 1st, does not provide financial aid offices and the federal government time to process the letters to send to the students to give them time to evaluate options. ECU will be flexible because we want the best for our students. ECU will work with families that state they have a challenge and cannot meet the May 1, 2024 deadline. ECU may also issue a public notice to indicate a flexible deadline.

Senator John Southworth, from Administration and Finance, requested a brief update on Project Kitty Hawk and how it may potentially affect staff both now and in the future.

Chancellor Rogers provided two perspectives, since he is both the Chancellor of ECU and a board member of Project Kitty Hawk. From a Project Kitty Hawk standpoint, the nursing program at N.C. Central is fully in the market, and another program will be coming online soon. ECU has four programs that are in or near the recruiting phase: psychology, criminal justice, information and

cybersecurity technology, and security studies. These programs have a high demand in the workforce and are specifically targeted at adult learners. They are comprised of ECU faculty, ECU programs, ECU staff, or in some instances, consultants for Kitty Hawk-related staff, who are helping get the programs started.

Chancellor Rogers added that ECU's online programs were the fastest growing in the state, and we continue to be ranked number one in N.C. and 6th in American online learning by *Newsweek*. However, we faced challenges during COVID and saw a plateau effect as other institutions joined the market for online learning. From a staffing standpoint, ECU did not have the marketing tools, search engine optimization tools, or the staffing tools to answer phone calls overnight. Chancellor Rogers provided the example of a military student stationed in Japan who calls to discuss which of his previous credits apply to a degree program. Since there is a considerable time difference between ECU and Japan, no one is available to answer his call when it comes in at midnight. With Kitty Hawk, the state fronts the resources to be able to provide call centers of staff that can answer the phone during non-business hours, with the ability to process applications, and perform marketing work without burdening existing staff on campus. As of December 11, 2023, when performing a search online for "B.A. in psychology," ECU will appear at the top of the results. Kitty Hawk will help provide the resources to deliver online learning in a way that meets the market needs.

Well-Being Resources for Staff

Robert Weatherly, Director, Learning and Organizational Development

Rob Weatherly discussed the well-being resources provided to staff and explained their relation to the vision priorities within ECU's strategic plan that involve workforce success and wellness. The majority of the programs are free, while others are a low-cost service, much lower than what is in the marketplace. One example is the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program, which launched in 2019. ECU partnered with ComPsych[®] & GuidanceResources[®] to provide services for all permanent ECU employees and their immediate family members living in their household, such as a spouse, domestic partner, and child(ren). These confidential services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The hotline number is 833-743-8183. A video was shared, which explained the types of services offered. This video will be posted on the Staff Senate website after the meeting.

Additional details were provided about the confidential mental health support offered through the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program. Trained clinicians are available to speak with employees, and family members in the household, regarding topics such as anxiety, depression, stress, grief and loss, and relationship and marital conflicts. ECU employees and household members can also receive up to three free counseling sessions per event with a licensed therapist in the Greenville, N.C. area. These programs are strictly confidential, and ECU only receives data related to the number of individuals who use the services.

ComPsych offers work-life balance solutions, which Rob Weatherly stated are probably the most helpful and also the most underutilized. Examples include, finding childcare or elder care facilities, educational options, community event information, pet care, and information related to moving. He personally used this service to find qualified contractors to repair his roof after it was damaged during a tropical storm. Additional examples of using ComPsych's specialists to help with almost any task include locating a

handler with a trained monkey to perform at a child's birthday party, and finding a vendor with goats to clear land.

ComPsych also offers legal and financial services. Attorneys can provide basic guidance for family law, wills, bankruptcy, estate planning, real estate, and identity theft. Rob Weatherly used this service to create his will for \$15. ComPsych can set up a 30-minute free consultation with a local attorney. Contracts with those attorneys result in a 25% reduction in fees. Financial resource officers provide advice on income and taxes, real estate and mortgages, credit management, debt reduction, retirement planning, and can provide referrals to qualified financial planners in the Greenville, N.C. area. Online services are offered at www.guidanceresources.com using the web ID: ECUFASAP. This website contains various articles, podcasts, videos, slideshows, on-demand training, and chat boxes so users can interact in real-time with counselors.

ECU has partnered with Headspace® to provide on-demand, confidential mental health support, which was launched approximately two years ago. The initial launch was with a company named Ginger, which has merged with Headspace. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week where you can chat through an app with a trained behavioral coach. The app is advantageous because you can immediately chat with someone. They offer coaching, therapy, and psychiatry. Additional meetings can be scheduled with licensed therapists and psychiatrists by video during evenings and weekends. This service is only available to ECU employees and adult members in the household. The behavioral coaching is free. The therapy and psychiatry services may potentially have a cost depending on your medical coverage. A video was presented which will also be posted on the Staff Senate website.

Rob Weatherly also referenced the BetterYou app, promoted on ECU's Campus Recreation and Wellness website. Courses, such as avoiding burnout and preparing for financial changes, are offered on Cornerstone through PiratePort. Questions about resources can be sent to hrdevelopment@ecu.edu.

Discussion: Chair Dana Lopez, from Student Affairs, referenced the summary reports received from the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program. She asked how often those reports are received and if they can be shared with Staff Senate.

Rob Weatherly replied that these reports are received on a quarterly basis and can probably be shared. No identifiable information is located in these reports. They show the utilization of each different type of service offered. HR is hoping to increase the use by publicizing these resources.

Senator Chad Carwein, from Administration and Finance, commented that he did not realize ComPsych offered services other than mental health counseling, and enjoyed learning about the financial coaching, ability to get a will or a list of contractors, and retirement planning. He encouraged others to spread the word.

Rob Weatherly responded that word of mouth is one of the more powerful tools we have to inform others about these resources.

Senator Joani Zary, from the Brody School of Medicine, asked if the Ginger app is still available or if a new app needs to be downloaded.

Rob Weatherly replied that it is his understanding that the next time someone logs into the Ginger app, it will prompt them to download the new Headspace Care app and will automatically transfer all of their account information, making it a seamless process.

Senator John Southworth, from Administration and Finance, commented he used ComPsych's services and found them to be easy, inexpensive, and simple. He also used the discount for legal services.

Rob Weatherly added they will be planning listening sessions and an employee engagement survey during the upcoming year to determine other types of well-being resources that are in demand.

Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Anne Ticknor, Faculty Senate Chair and Professor in the College of Education

Dr. Anne Ticknor provided an update from the Faculty Senate. Chancellor Rogers and Provost Coger spoke at the Faculty Senate meeting held on January 30, 2024. The Provost provided an update on the Faculty Realignment Incentive Plan (FRIP). They are currently determining which tenured faculty meet all of the requirements, as well as how this may impact programs and departments. Searchers are underway for the Deans of the Graduate School and the College of Health and Human Performance. Associate Vice Chancellor Koch provided a report on parking and transportation services, and parking rates have not increased. Dr. Mark Bowler shared a report from the Faculty Assembly meeting that included a project proposal called the Foundations of American Democracy, which would require students to complete two new courses related to this subject. If approved, it will impact incoming students in the fall of 2025.

Faculty Senate offered advice on two PRRs for policies, rules, and regulations. They have recommended when a new or existing PRR is reviewed, that the Chair of Faculty Senate, Chair of Staff Senate, and SGA President are notified immediately so that all groups can provide feedback. Faculty Senate has also proposed the addition of anti-bullying language in the ECU Employee Code of Conduct.

Stephanie Coleman, the Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance, will provide a budget update at the February 2024 Faculty Senate meeting, to include what will be done to make up the shortfall due to enrollment.

Dr. Ticknor explained that Faculty Senate has 24 committees, with the majority of the membership being faculty, but they also consist of ex-officio members from across the university, such as from Student Affairs and the SGA. Dr. Ticknor requested that topics from a staff perspective are sent directly to her so that these committees can discuss and make recommendations to revise policies and procedures.

Dr. Ticknor provided her perspective on FRIP, stating that it is good for the university, but may not be beneficial to departments because they will lose the positions of those who retire under this incentive.

With respect to the ROI study, Dr. Ticknor reiterated Chancellor Rogers' remarks surrounding the limitations of the study, and added that graduates in the areas of theater, dance, art, and design typically leave the state for jobs. Across the UNC System, some programs did not have a good return on investment,

and questions should be asked why a graduate is not making as much money with a particular degree. She thinks this exercise will help our programs become stronger.

Discussion: Chair Dana Lopez, from Student Affairs, asked if staff are represented in some of these discussions about the ROI results.

Dr. Tickner replied that she is unsure because she is not involved in the conversations. She assumes this is occurring at the program and dean level.

Student Government Association Update

Joshua Crockett, SGA Attorney General

Joshua Crockett stated the Association of Student Governments' meeting will be hosted at ECU on the same day as Pirates Aboard. This meeting will involve 40-45 students from other institutions that represent their student government associations.

An elections update was provided, and Joshua Crockett thanked staff for encouraging students to apply to SGA. They received 28 applicants this semester and have already confirmed 14 members. The Board of Governors has placed restrictions on faculty or staff from campaigning, supporting, or opposing any student filing for student government elections. Any student who asks for support or an endorsement will be disqualified. Faculty and staff may still encourage students to vote.

The SGA passed three pieces of legislation to include the Labor Acknowledgement and two constitutional amendments. Wording was changed in the Labor Acknowledgement to include everyone involved.

SGA funded the Black Student Success Summit, which will be held on February 10, 2024. Other SGA initiatives include purchasing 750 nightcap scrunchie drink covers, approving \$45,000 for the homecoming budget, receiving a \$6,000 grant for the Swipe Out Hunger initiative, collecting over 600 meal swipes under the current term, advocating for wellness days, and working on an internship scholarship for students. Joshua Crockett also thanked Senator Chad Carwein for speaking to their group about sustainability initiatives.

Discussion: Senator Chad Carwein, from Administration and Finance, asked if as the Sustainability Manager, he could provide information regarding the constitutional amendments on the ballot to student groups or post them on social media.

Josh Crockett replied that they encourage the promotion of voting and making sure people are aware of what will be listed on the ballot, but a particular candidate or stance cannot be endorsed.

Chair Dana Lopez, from Student Affairs, asked for more information regarding the wellness days.

Josh Crockett replied that the Calendar Committee has been discussing this item, with the goal of providing three wellness days for students each semester. This may be changed to one defined day, specifically implemented into the academic calendar. They will encourage faculty to add wellness days in their syllabus for a student to take at their leisure, as long as it does not coincide with a test.

Senator Margaret Moody, from Academic Affairs, asked how the wellness days are defined.

Josh Crockett replied that the wellness day would be used when the student is having a mental health concern, or similar event, where they do not feel as though they can focus on their classes and would be absent that day.

Vice Chair Lauren Thorn, from Student Affairs, asked for criteria related to the internship scholarships and the amount of funding that would be provided.

Josh Crockett answered that the SGA President and Vice President are in talks with Provost Coger about this internship scholarship. They are hoping it would function like the Honors College Chancellor's Fellows Scholarship, and cover the cost of tuition for up to three students, depending on the amount of funding the budget provides.

Treasurer's Report

Stephanie Stroud, Staff Senate Treasurer

Treasurer Stephanie Stroud announced that the January 2024 Treasurer's Report included expenses for the refreshments served at the December 2023 Staff Senate monthly meeting, the t-shirts purchased for the Wellness Walk in October of 2023, and the money distributed for the SHRA scholarships. Staff Senate is waiting on reimbursements for travel from previous attendance at Staff Assembly meetings from 2023. Questions can be routed directly to Stephanie Stroud or to staffsenate@ecu.edu.

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

Crystal Hildenbrand, Staff Senate Chair-Elect

Parking and Transportation Services Update

Chair-Elect Hildenbrand reported that Bill Koch, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Campus Safety and Auxiliary Services, presented the annual parking report at a recent Faculty Senate meeting. Parking and Transportation Services is under Campus Safety and Auxiliary Services, and Associate Vice Chancellor Koch reports to Stephanie Coleman, who is the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.

The Parking and Transportation (P&T) unit consists of the following areas:

- Parking lot inventory management, maintenance, and enforcement
- Parking permit sales and customer service
- Finance and administration
- Special events coordination
- Transportation demand management – alternate transportation to minimize parking demand and traffic congestion, which includes ECU Transit (which is under Student Affairs and is not a part of Parking and Transportation Services), motor fleet, bicycles, and pedestrians

A few highlights noted from the report include that 80% of the revenues collected from parking citations must be returned to the state to help support the Department of Public Instruction, as required by the North Carolina Constitution. The staffing in P&T has returned to pre-COVID levels. Management has chosen not to recommend a fee increase for parking for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The aging garage gate and pay station equipment have been replaced and the ParkMobile app is being considered as a pay option. The D permit lot for students located across from the baseball stadium has been repaired and resurfaced, and a 500-space garage will be designed for the Medical Education Building Project on the Health Sciences Campus. Questions about Parking and Transportation Services can be sent to the interim director, Josh Puckett, at parking@ecu.edu.

ECU Board of Trustees Meeting

Dana Lopez, Staff Senate Chair

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on February 15-16, 2024.

Board of Governors

Dana Lopez, Staff Senate Chair

The Board of Governors approved changes to 23 sections of the UNC Policy Manual and Code during their January 2024 meeting. These 23 sections were either repealed, amended, or adopted into the policy manual. Two of the sections were related to the appointment and leave programs that were discussed during the January Staff Senate meeting. An HR representative will speak at a future meeting to discuss the progress of these changes and how they directly affect staff.

Shayna Hill, the new Chair of the UNC Staff Assembly, provided remarks at the BOG meeting and represented the staff well.

By-Laws Committee

Senator John Southworth, Chair of the By-Laws Committee, stated they finalized the wording to have an SGA representative serve in an ex-officio role. This will be brought to Staff Senate for a vote once the changes to the parliamentary position are completed. This committee is also reviewing the by-laws for any confusing or contradictory statements. Proposed changes will be emailed in advance of voting at a future meeting.

Communication and Marketing Committee

Senator Chad Carwein, Chair of the Communication and Marketing Committee, announced they have added each senator's and alternate senator's terms to the Staff Senate website. They are assisting with marketing materials for the Silent Auction. He also provided sustainability jokes in the spirit of Valentine's Day.

Diversity Committee

There were no updates from the Diversity Committee.

Human Resources Committee

There were no updates from the Human Resources Committee.

Leadership and Professional Development Committee

Senator Jennifer Jones, Chair of the Leadership and Professional Development Committee, stated the Ballard's Annual Lessons in Leadership (B.A.L.L.) event will be held on April 10, 2024, at 3:00 pm at the ECHI auditorium. Dr. Higginson will present on "Learning to Lead." Dr. Ballard has been invited to the event. Advertising will be disseminated soon, with an RSVP deadline of April 3, 2024. The event will also be live-streamed.

The committee is also working with HR to provide the Servant Leadership Prep Class, which will be held on April 25, 2024, at 8:30 am in room 125 at the Main Campus Student Center.

Membership Committee

Senator Joseph Moore, the Chair of the Membership Committee, stated 60 nominations were received for Staff Senate. Two of those nominations were declined by HR. Senator Moore is in the process of reaching out to the remaining 58 nominees to see if they accept or decline the nomination, and he has received a response from approximately half of those individuals. The election process will run from February 18 through March 15, 2024.

Recognition and Rewards Committee

Senator Amy Eason, the Chair of the Recognition and Rewards Committee, had to leave the meeting before committee updates were announced and will place an update in Teams.

Scholarship Committee

Senator Michelle Bone, the Chair of the Scholarship Committee, announced three recipients have been selected for the Gail Jordan Memorial Scholarship and four recipients have been selected for the Children of SHRA Employees Scholarship. The recipients will be recognized at a future meeting. The Silent Auction will be held from April 7 – 13, 2024 to coincide with Staff Appreciation month. They are actively seeking donations and hope to receive one donation per senator. Money raised helps sponsor the scholarships given by Staff Senate.

Discussion: Senator Chad Carwein, from Administration and Finance, asked if a spreadsheet was available to keep track of businesses who have been contacted for donations in order to not duplicate requests.

Senator Michelle Bone replied she will post a spreadsheet in Teams similar to last year to keep track of who has been contacted. She is open to all suggestions to assist with donations.

Chair Dana Lopez added that Staff Senate has been asked to revisit the Children of SHRA Employees Scholarship since many SHRA employees will be transitioning to EPS positions. This change will limit the pool of applicants. A review will be performed to see what restrictions apply.

Senator Bone replied she noticed wording in the scholarship contained old language that needs updating, as well.

Old Business

Dana Lopez, Staff Senate Chair

Policy Revision: 300.4.1 – Policy on Interpersonal Relationships among Faculty, Staff, and Students

Staff Senate was given the opportunity to comment on the revision of this UNC policy. Chair Dana Lopez thanked those who had reviewed it and provided proposed changes. All of the comments were submitted.

New Business

Dana Lopez, Staff Senate Chair

There was no new business to discuss.

In closing, Chair Dana Lopez announced the next Staff Senate meeting will be held on March 14, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the East Carolina Heart Institute (ECHI) Auditorium.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken and prepared by Staff Senate Secretary, Christiana Shoopman.

Minutes approved 3/14/2024