

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

PRESIDING: Megan Colascione, President

Call to Order – Megan Colascione, President

President Colascione officially called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM. President Colascione welcomed staff senators and visitors to the staff senate meeting. She reminded attendees that only staff senators are permitted to speak during the meeting.

Roll Call/Attendance Report – Julia Hodge, Secretary

Secretary Hodge checked the roll after taking attendance. According to the attendance report, 40 senators were in attendance, 11 senators were absent or online, and no senators gave proxies.

Establish Quorum – Julia Bellon, Parliamentarian

Based on the attendance report, Secretary Hodge declared a quorum was established and Parliamentarian Bellon declared business could be conducted.

Approval of Minutes – Megan Colascione, President

There were no changes to the June 11, 2024, staff senate meeting minutes. Senator Keller made a motion to accept the June 11, 2024, general body staff senate minutes as written. Senator Allen-Malloy seconded the motion to accept the minutes as written. All senators were in favor. The motion was adopted and carried, and the minutes were accepted as written.

President's Update – Megan Colascione, President

- Celebrate
 - Reminder that Staff Senate work matters.
 - Shared positive quote from former senator, Wright Culpepper.
 - Vacancy report
 - Must fill Graduate School open seat
- Collaborate
 - Volunteer Opportunities, including:
 - USC Move-In
 - First Night Carolina
 - Family Weekend
 - Health & Wellness Expo
 - Parking and Transportation
 - Next guest speaker at August 13 meeting
 - Goal: talk with your constituents to collect questions. Send compiled list to Jessica McKie by Friday, July 26.
- Innovate
 - First Committee Meetings
 - Meetings with Leadership
 - Connecting across campus
- Please join me in welcoming our guest speaker today, Jared Evans with the USC Alumni Association.

Guest Speaker – Jared Evans, Chief Experience Officer, USC Alumni Association

- Core focus: Foster lifelong relationships with students, alumni and friends of the university
- 285,000 USC Columbia alumni, 320,000 system alumni
- Work hard to find unique and engaging opportunities for alums
- 52 affiliate groups, 46 regional clubs, 4 affinity councils, 2 infinity groups
- Award more than \$230,000 in scholarships per year, just endowed a few and have gift agreements for others
- 2 main teams: facility team (Pastides Alumni Center) and experience team
- Southern Way is exclusive catering partner in the Alumni Center
- Mentorship Hub
 - Program for alums to give back and connect with current students
 - Partnership with the Career Center
- Exciting news
 - Paid off debt of Pastides Alumni Center due to a generous gift from a donor
 - Hiring 2 positions – check out the LinkedIn pages
 - Looking into a new [website](#) – goal: completed by January 2025.
- Top Priority: strengthen campus partnerships
 - Presence at commencement
 - Partner with Student Affairs and HRSM
 - Athletics partnership for single game tickets (football presale, and looking to duplicate with other sports)
 - Brought back senior send-offs with admitted seniors through a partnership with Admissions and Parent/Family Programs
 - Charleston, Charlotte, and Greenville
 - Alums could engage with incoming freshmen
- Benefits of Membership
 - Annual (\$55 per year) and Life membership (\$900 total)
 - Access to library, Strom
 - 20% off at Adams Bookstore
 - 20% off accessories at iHub
 - Discounts on international and national trips
 - Looking into something with ExperienceColumbia
 - New Graduate Lifetime Membership (\$500)
 - Great package that combines buying a Horseshoe Brick (typically, \$350 as standalone) and Life Membership
- Events
 - Happy Hour and School Supply Drive for First-Generation Center
 - Gamecock Sports Preview (member-only event)
 - Tailgates
 - Host 4 home and 3 away tailgates (including Kentucky)
 - Friday, September 6 private event at Maker's Mark prior to the Kentucky football game
 - Gala
 - Friday, November 1 for Homecoming Weekend

- Thanksgiving Trip
 - Join alums to go support the Carolina Band at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Reports of Committees:

Membership: Kathryn Kenard/Andrea Avant

- Meetings: Third Tuesdays @ 3:00 PM on Teams
 - First meeting, July 16
- Goals (Fall 2024):
 - Membership Procedures
 - Review Senator representation so that each Senator knows who they represent, and all staff members know who represents them.
 - Work with communications committee to help get the information to staff.
 - Work with organizational finance codes and organizational charts to make sure each area has representation, and it has been clearly communicated with Senators and staff.
 - Elections
 - Review and revise, as needed, the timeline and process for elections.
 - Prepare to hold officer elections.

Communications: Michaela Taylor/Lori Carey

- Meetings: Third Tuesdays @ 9:30 AM on Teams
 - First meeting, July 16
- Goals:
 - Working to update the website
 - Continuing to work on staff communication efforts
- Request: Please check the Staff Senate website to make sure your information is correct. Any edits should be sent to the co-chairs.

Staff Policy and Well-Being: Jason Cone/Cami Reid

- Meetings: first meeting, July 16 @ 3:00 PM on Teams
- Goals:
 - Our committee will be making a big push to see what can be done about the dependent tuition remission policy (transparency and compare to SEC peer group), will conduct meeting with Financial Aid Office soon and others, may need to address at State Level to get traction
 - Will be looking for opportunities to help with accessibility out on USC Columbia campus (to partner with Office of Civil Rights & Title IX)
 - Will be looking for mental health spaces out on USC Columbia campus
 - Our committee has been able to connect with Faculty Senate members (Amie Freeman & Suzy Hardie – they are our counterparts that serve of Faculty Senate Welfare Committee)

- Research university policies on additional duties assigned and how that relates to compensation for staff members

Professional Development: Khristina DeLorenzo/Simone Keller

- Meetings: First meeting Wednesday, July 17 @ 2:00 PM on Teams
- Goals: to be determined at first meeting
- Request: Respond to survey to gauge what senators are interested in regarding professional development

Community Projects: Chakira Hogan/Alexis Watts

- Meetings: Every 3 weeks on Tuesday at 3:00 PM on Teams
 - First meeting, July 16 @ 3:00 PM on Teams
- Goals:
 - Gain more participation of staff across the university both on and off campus
 - Utilize resources to get staff more involved by sharing opportunities in a centralized location
 - Collaborate with other Staff Senate Committees to identify resources to innovate and make recognition of volunteerism and its impact more visible/incentivized
- Upcoming Volunteer/Donation Effort
 - Gamecock CommUNITY Shop Drive
 - Encourage areas to donate most needed items
 - Items due by August 13 general body meeting
 - Donation bins set up on 1st floor of Close-Hipp
 - Coordinating ways to donate monetarily (more details to come)

By-Laws: Marissa Buck/Manda Fontenot-Tuk

- Meetings: Second Thursdays @ 11:00 AM on Teams
- Goals:
 - Upcoming topics of revision include the election procedures for President and Vice President regarding succession; membership (specifically regarding the definitions surrounding what comprises a unit); and allowing more flexibility in election schedules as it pertains to what happens each month.

Staff Senate Awards and Recognition Committee: Toni Karl

- Meetings: First meeting, July 16 @ 10:00 AM on Teams
- Goals:
 - Confirm location of Staff Appreciation and Awards Day (possibly change location each year for variety)
 - Consider various options for award winners instead of monetary designated prize

Staff Senate Scholarship/Fundraising Committee: Michelle Knight

- Meetings: Third Tuesdays at 10:00 AM on Teams

- First meeting, July 16 @ 10:00 AM on Teams
- Goals:
 - Will be working to “seek and find” ways to raise money for staff scholarships by looking at other institutions and soliciting input from committee members and other Senators.
 - Hoping to award 1 or 2 scholarships Spring 2025 at the Staff Appreciation Day.

Order of Business – Julia Bellon, Parliamentarian

- Review of proposed 24-25 budget brought forth
 - Motion to approve: Senator Epps and Second: Boland
 - Discussion
 - Question about renegotiating fringe with faculty senate. Treasure Denisi will look into it.
 - Motion to approve after discussion: Senator Boland, and seconded by Senator Reid
 - All voted to approve, and the budget passed.

Additional Announcements

- Senator Reid looked into support for staff who are caregivers.
 - Met with Amanda Castles and Robynn Pease to create a Caregivers Network of staff to help support those in that position.
- Senator McCormick is hoping to connect with colleges/units with staff councils to revamp the College of Nursing’s staff council and discuss best practices.
- Senator Weatherford announced the new name of the Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing sharing the gratitude of receiving a generous donation.
- Senator Duvall shared the update that the university now has access to Zoom. Everyone should be migrated over to the new Zoom. DoIT is working on allowing the option to show when creating meetings in Outlook like you can with Teams. It can integrate seamlessly with Blackboard (as Collaborate is no longer an option).
 - If you have questions or need access, reach out to Senator Duvall.
- Phase III Implementation: check with your HR contact on what is happening with your unit.
- Reminder: please share the meeting notes sent from the Communications Committee to your constituents.

Adjourn

Senator Epps made a motion to adjourn. Senator McCormick seconded the motion to adjourn. All senators were in favor. The formal meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Hodge

Secretary
Staff Senate