

UNL STAFF SENATE MEETING

Date: May 9th, 2024, 2:30-4:00 pm

Location: East Campus Union, Great Plains Room A

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the full Staff Senate meeting as corrected by those participating. These are provisional and subject to change until approved at the July meeting. ___

Present

District 1: Patrick Barrett, Beth Barry, Eileen Bergt, Sara Haake, Celeste Spier, and Rhonda Zugmier

District 2: Jill Flagel, Letty Garcia, Jordan Gonzales, Jerri Harner, and Kim Schellpeper

District 3: Spencer Hall, Tony Lazarowicz, Doug Pellatz, Markeya Peteranetz, Terri Pieper, and Mikki Sandin

District 4: Adam Fitzwater, Carrie Jackson, Derek McConnell, Morgan Green McConnell and Pat Tetreault

District 5: Ryan Caldwell, Ian Edgington, Regina Flowers, Greg Fritz, Brent Morgan, and Katelyn Rife

District 6: Jessie Brophy, Joan Kunzman, Scott Evans, Christina Franklin, Marissa Kemp, Meg Kester, Samantha Link, Julie Singh, and Lisa Vonfeldt

District 7: Kate Carlin, Megan Ebbers, Jenn Rutt, and Ashley Washburn

University of Nebraska System: Blake France and Brad Severa

2:30 Call to Order

EK Franks & Chancellor's Office Updates

- Groundbreaking for the USDA complex on Innovation Campus
- Graduation is next week.
- EK has moved around campus with Chancellor Bennett to engage with campus during listening sessions. Predominantly these events have been at the college level. There are plans to reach out in a similar fashion to those who do not work within the colleges.
- Will be using what they have heard to set priorities
- There will be some revisions of the 2025 Strategic Plan
- Questions from the Senate
 - Joann Ross, Senate Coordinator, asked about listening sessions engaging with those not in the colleges.
 - Spencer Hall, District 3, asked about communication from the Chancellor's Office
 - Tony L., District 3, brought up the issue of staff wages and how our staff members are paid well below a living wage.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes from March 14, 2024 (Lisa Vonfeldt was present in March)
- Approval of today's agenda
- Committee Reports
 - Legislation Committee
 - Liaison Committee
 - Elections Committee
 - Recognition Committee
 - DEI Committee
 - Personnel Affairs Committee
 - Communications Committee

3:00

Reports: Officers

President Sara Haake

Information from Steve Beck, HR. There will be a new system coming, Success Factors, that will replace People Admin HR.

The first New Employee Orientation session was yesterday. Senators Stephanie Bonnema and Tony Lazarowicz represented the Staff Senate during the orientation. They provided helpful feedback that will inform future presentations at these events.

Commencement: A congratulatory message was recorded by the Staff Senate President that will play during graduation. A representative from the Staff Senate will march in the precession.

All-Staff Conference is later this month. Please remember that the Staff Senate is not coordinating or sponsoring this event. There is an amazing, dedicated group organizing this. We will have a session where Senators will be meeting with members of their districts. There is a celebration at the end of the Conference, in which we will recognize the recipients of the awards the Senate is giving out.

Recognition of those Senators who are rotating off after this meeting.

Internal Vice President, Jordan Gonzales

Changes at the University include new and leaving leaders. Dr. Gold will begin as the University President and CEO. Sherri Jones will not be returning to CEHS to serve as Dean. Nick Pace has agreed to serve as Interim Dean, while EVC Ankerson begins a new search for a person to fill that role.

Budget update: While there is much that we do not know now, there are two things we can be doing to help with the financial situation – help with the number of graduate and undergraduate students enrolled and support efforts for tuition increases.

External Vice President, Jessie Brophy

NU Staff Advocacy Board: Still discussing what a staff advisory board/staff senate will look like at UNMC. At the last meeting, discussed feedback from the listening sessions with Dr. Gold. Looking at how each campus is individual and their goals from staff senates may be different.

Big 10 Collaboration on Staff Advocacy: Many of the things that are impacting higher education across the country are having an impact on Big 10 institutions.

Annual Report: Jessie is compiling an annual report that will highlight the first 15 months of the Staff Senate. Committee chairs have provided her with updates of what they have been working on and accomplished. Jessie will be sending out the draft report to Senators for feedback. Feedback should be submitted to her by June 15. The goal is to have it handed out at the July Senate meeting.

Reports: Committees

The Bylaws Committee (Jessie Brophy) introduced several motions to be voted on that clarify when meetings occur, when senator terms begin and end, and the role of the Executive Director.

A motion was introduced to change language in **Bylaw X.6.2** that would clarify when meetings occur (every other month during the academic year) and that an onboarding will occur sometime

during the summer. The motion was approved.

A motion was introduced that would revise **Bylaw X.3.1** to include a new provision **X.3.1.A**. This new language clarifies when a senator's term begins and ends. The motion was approved.

A motion was introduced that would add **Bylaws X.5.3.A** to clarify the succession plan for vacancies on the Executive Committee. Specifically, direction is provided in a situation where the President steps down and when a special election should be held. The motion was approved.

A motion was introduced to revise **Bylaw X.5.8** to provide clarification of the role of the Executive Advisor. Motion was approved.

A review of **Bylaw X.3.5 (vacancies)** occurred that explains what happens if a Senator changes employment. The provision covers situations where a vacancy occurs due to early removal or resignation. No action was necessary.

3:45

New Business/ Open Mic

July Meeting is set for July 18th from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (East Campus Union, Great Plains A room). This meeting will also involve onboarding for our new senators. More information about the meeting will be provided as the time draws closer.

Tony Lazarowitz, District 3, asked a question of VC Zeleny regarding tuition increase, when students are notified of the increase, and how that will impact student attendance and satisfaction.

Patrick Barrett, District 1, asked about committee assignments for the incoming term, and whether current senators may advocate for their committee to incoming senators. Incoming senators were asked to provide their top three committee interests. That doesn't mean that current senators cannot discuss skills, interests, etc. with incoming senators.

Rhonda Zugmier, District 1, mentioned that there is legal assistance available on campus for students and asked whether it is possible to have similar resources available for staff.

4:00 Meeting adjourned

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Joann Ross, Coordinator, and Regina Flowers, Secretary.