

LSUE Staff Senate

Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022
2:00pm
A127 & Zoom

Senators Present:

April Fontenot	Andy Gaspard
Amber Arnaud	Ray Zorn
Shelly Arnaud	Amy Greagoff
Patricia Gaspard	Kerry Fontenot

Senators Absent: Ceslie O'Brien, Chad Jones, Cory Lalonde, Pamela Veillon, Pearly Rideaux

Guests: Donnie Thibodeaux, Debbie Reaux, Cassie Jobe-Ganuchau, Marjana Herring, Courtney Fruge, Jim Veillon, Joseph Cilano, Victoria Bieber, Paul Fowler, Katie Tucker, Sandra King, Melanie Ceaser

I. Staff Senate Chair, Patricia Gaspard, called the meeting to order at 2:06pm

II. Chair's Report

- Current account balance is \$4,267.02 with \$180.00 pending in donations

III. New Business

- Approval of minutes from November 18, 2021 meeting
 - i. Minutes are missing some information and to be updated before they can be approved. Approval of minutes was postponed until February meeting.
- Dr. Paul Fowler
 - i. Dr. Paul Fowler visited staff senate to discuss the Achieving the Dream (ATD) initiatives
 - ii. Dr. Fowler shared the vision of student success and asked for staff senates endorsement of the vision
 - 1. Andy Gaspard motioned to accept the vision as written and Shelly Arnaud seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.
 - iii. Dr. Fowler reviewed ATD goals and action plans

- Scholarship Applications
 - i. Only received 2 applications – Shaun Gaspard (son of Patricia & Andy Gaspard) and Tanner Arnaud (son of Amber Arnaud)
 - ii. Ray Zorn motioned to award scholarships to the two applicants and Shelly Arnaud seconded the motion
 - iii. Andy Gaspard asked about the current announcing and advertising of scholarships and asked if we should try to do more to communicate to see if we can increase the number of people interested.
 - iv. Discussions ensued and ideas were shared but the topic was ultimately tabled until summer
- Staff Excellence Awards
 - i. Patricia shared that we currently have 4 staff awards of \$250 each that are presented each year at the faculty & staff award banquet. Currently awards are given in four categories – professional staff, classified administrative staff, maintenance/specialties, facilities/custodial
 - ii. Patricia Gaspard and Courtney Fruge explained that there are disparities between the numbers of employees in each group which will make it difficult to award some of them in the near future due to eligibility requirements (1 year employment, not awarded in previous year).
 - iii. Patricia explained to everyone that we have the ability to determine how we would like the awards to be given (we are given \$1000 total and can split it as we see fit). We can continue to give 4 awards or go down to 2 or split even further to give more.
 - iv. Discussion took place and ideas were shared and Ray Zorn proposed doing away with the 4 categories and splitting staff into only 2 categories – classified and unclassified and awarding 2 people from each group keeping it at 4 awards given at \$250 each.
 - v. Ray Zorn motioned to accept the proposal and Andy Gaspard seconded. All senators present were asked to vote (8 senators out of 13 were present). All 8 senators were in favor of the motion. Motion passed.
- Staff Day at Athletic Games
 - i. Patricia discussed an idea of trying to incentivize staff members to attend athletic events. The idea was to maybe allow all staff attendees to enter to win a prize. Prizes would be small, perhaps we could try to get gift cards donated, etc.
 - ii. Several discussions and ideas were shared around the idea
 1. Katie Tucker shared she thought this should be a combined effort with faculty senate
 2. Amy Greagoff thought we should think about trying to encourage staff participation at all events across campus not just athletic

events. She also suggested sending out a survey to staff to determine why so many do not attend events – what are the prohibiting factors, what type of events would they be interested in, etc.

3. Patricia Gaspard suggested we put a small committee together to plan ways to engage staff members and develop a survey to gather more information

- Christmas Party
 - i. Patricia shared that she received a lot of great feedback about the event and feels it went very well. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

IV. Campus Update

- Staff Senate Chair, Patricia Gaspard, was scheduled to speak on behalf of all campuses at the last board meeting regarding tuition exemptions for faculty and staff and their dependents but unfortunately was not given the opportunity. Since then she has been in conversation with the Faculty Senate Lead for all campuses, Mandy Lopez, and they have decided they will stand together at the next meeting to speak for all faculty and staff regarding tuition exemptions.

V. Comments from Senators & Guests

- Amy Greagoff asked for an update on staff senate shirts. A picture of the shirts was shared with the group and Patricia will work on sending out a form to gather everyone's sizes. Ray Zorn is working with the rep and will also be speaking to departments to gauge interest in department shirts as well. The more shirts ordered the lower the cost of the shirts.

VI. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shelly Arnaud and seconded by Andy Gaspard– the meeting adjourned at 2:53pm