



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 9, 2023 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

- I. Call to Order was promptly 10:00am.
- II. Roll Call – Dawn Lewis, ~~Adam Weyer~~, Donna Knight, Katie Whatley, Taylor Haigler, Tavares Meadows, Brittany Brissey, Sam Abney, Matthew Moore, Awaili Thomas Quarles, ~~Jeff Reynolds~~, Demario Watts, Jamie Wilson, Laney Dixon, Patrick Moore, Ken Toole
Ex-officio: London Thomas or Kurstin Lacoste (HR), Jessica Partlow (DAC)
- III. Guest Speaker – Greg Allen
 - a. Pedestrian Crossings – LUPD receives many calls from students, faculty, and staff, about cars not stopping at pedestrian crosswalks. Chief Allen encourages everyone to watch out for distracted students crossing the roads.
 - b. Suspicious activity – Remember to watch out for suspicious activity on campus. Don't approach suspicious people or activity, call LUPD.
 - c. Remember:
 - i. Keep doors closed around campus, not propped open.
 - ii. No unauthorized parking in reserved or handicapped spaces.
 - d. LUPD initiatives:
 - i. Starting community service to erase parking tickets for students, incentivizing students to give back to the community.
 - ii. Department now has license plate readers around campus (8 total) so LUPD can see who is coming and going from campus.
 - iii. Access control gates in Bearcat Village are updating to card access gates.
 1. Bearcat village also has a LUPD substation for extra security.
 - iv. New deputy chief – Dena Gossett
 - v. James Burke promoted to Captain of Uniform Patrol
 - vi. LUPD is planning a self-defense class in January to train staff and will open the class up to the Lander Community next semester.
- IV. Vote to Approve Prior Minutes
 - a. Ken Toole motioned to approve the October meeting minutes. Matt Moore seconded the motion, and the October meeting minutes were approved.
- V. Chair Report
 - a. Employee Appreciation Committee Updates
 - i. Jingle and mingle – will discuss in New Business.
 - ii. Chocolate bar – will discuss in New Business.
- VI. Diversity Advisory Council
 - a. November is Native American Heritage Month. A flyer will be sent out to the Faculty/Staff email list.

Staff Senate Mission Statement

The Lander University Staff Senate exists to enhance the welfare of its staff; to serve as a liaison between staff, administration, faculty, and students; and to advise the administration on matters concerning the staff. This focus provides staff a voice to promote a positive, respectful work environment that sustains both personal and professional growth. In support of the university's strategic plan, specifically the goal of remaining an employer of choice, the senate strives foremost to contribute to the overall success of Lander University and its students.

- b. Remember to review the benefits newsletter that is sent out every month.

VII. Senate Reports

a. Academic Affairs

- i. Katie Whatley shared that Dr. Colbert is looking to fill several staff positions. He encourages others to join the Lander family. He appreciates the Lander staff and faculty and sees Lander as strongest it has been in a while.

b. Athletics

- i. No representatives reported on Athletics.

c. Finance & Administration

- i. Matt Moore reported that the new pool is coming along, and the new pool house is almost complete.

d. Enrollment & Access Management

- i. Laney Dixon reported that the Office of Admissions has two new employees and has two open positions. Admissions Counselors are out of the office recruiting. The Office of Financial Aid is hiring.

e. President's Office

- i. Dawn Lewis reported that the Lander Foundation held their scholarship banquet November 8th. University Relations is searching for new videographer.

f. Student Affairs

- i. Sam Abney Reported the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is Tuesday, November 28th. Student Affairs is still looking for volunteers. Laporshia Crawford has been promoted to the Director of Health Services & Ian Kloss has been promoted to Assistant Director of Counseling Services. Patrick Fowler has been hired as the new Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life.

g. Student Experience and Quality Assurance

- i. No representatives reported on Student Experience and Quality Assurance.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Employee Appreciation and Recognition

- i. Taylor Haigler reported that the Employee Appreciation and Recognition committee is continuing to send out 'Happy Birthday' cards weekly and continues to recognize staff members work anniversaries. The committee has put a video together to go out around Thanksgiving of our Vice Presidents showing their staff appreciation. October the Staff Senate is recognizing the Office of Student Life and Campus Recreation as the Office Spotlight.

b. Elections

- i. Matt Moore reported that the Elections committee is making sure the Staff Senate stays on schedule for next year's senate nominations.

c. Professional Development

- i. Demario Watts reported that the Professional Development committee is waiting on feedback for wanted activities. They are planning to start programming in the Spring.

d. Communications and Bylaws

- i. Dawn Lewis reported that the Communications and Bylaws committee is continuing to send out emails and graphics from the Employee Appreciation and Recognition committee.

e. Community Partnership

- i. Katie Whatley thanked everyone who participated in the Adopt-A-Highway project. She reported that students also participated and had great attitudes.
- ii. Katie Whatley thanked Donna Knight, Laney Dixon, and Taylor Haigler for their time volunteering with the Greenwood "Boo Bash".
- iii. The "Senate vs, Senate Food Drive" is still active and ends November 15th. Drop-off spots include the LC 2nd floor elevator, Jackson Library main floor, Science Building, and PEES building near the fitness center.
- iv. Awaili Thomas Quarles shared the Christmas Angel Tree giving opportunity.
- v. Staff Senate will be participating in three Christmas parades: Abbeville Christmas Parade (December 9th), Greenwood Christmas Parade (December 3rd), and Ninety-Six Christmas Parade (December 2nd).

IX. Old Business

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- X. New Business
 - a. The HR Jingle & Mingle will be December 14th. Patrick Moore requested the senate to consider other alternatives to the “Chocolate Bar” due to budget restrictions on the purchase of food. The Staff Senate will continue to sponsor the “Ugly Sweater Competition”.
 - b. Kurstin Lacoste requested the senate to think of ideas for Spring Break activities for staff members.
 - c. Demario Watts mentioned the Office of Student Life is looking for volunteers for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

- XI. Adjournment
 - a. Kaite Whatley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dawn Lewis seconded the motion and the meeting ended at 10:55am.

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