

Staff Senate
Meeting Agenda
February 28th 11:20a.m.-12:35p.m. C-007

1. Call to Order at 11:23am by President Fonseca
Senators absent:
Renee Tolliver
Vic Conover
David Walsh
Haashim Smith-Johnson
Mike Pestritto
2. Approval of January minutes- Diana Allen motions to approve, Kate Spalding seconds.
3. President's Report
Lauren Fonseca mentions how University Advancement currently has no representation on staff senate, due to realignment since creation of staff senate. Lauren and Chad Roberts have been in discussions regarding the current and upcoming open positions. Mentions the election email will be going out to the entire staff within a day.
Lauren Fonseca mentions she will be discussing the topics of President Joe's Town Hall with him and Dr. Sass at their next meeting.
4. Standing Committee
 - a. Elections
No updates, aside from what President Fonseca had discussed.
 - b. By-Laws
Natajia Manger states the committee is unable to move forward due to the rewriting of the constitution. She requests information on a timeline and which articles are being updated. President Fonseca asks if Natajia would like to be a liaison to the ad hoc constitutional update committee and recommends Jenifer Robin also be tasked, as she was instrumental in creating the staff senate and its original constitution.
No additional updates.
 - c. DEI
Diana Allen mentions the next committee meeting will be held on March 7th.
No additional updates.
 - d. Technology
Chair Pestritto was absent. No updates.
5. Updates from University Committees
Bill Mauroff mentions the Campus Climate committee is currently synthesizing data and information.
Atlantic City Strategic Planning Committee- Monica Viani updates the 1st full committee meeting is later that day.
6. Formation of and recruitment for ad-hoc committees
President Fonseca mentions needing members for the following committees:
Developing a mission and vision statement and revising the constitution. Staff senate will be sending out recruitment emails within the next day. Mentions to be part of the committee, you do not have to be a senator, just a staff member.

Event Coordinating Committee- Megan Taylor and Jessica Miri have been working on securing a date for a meet the senators event. Suggests maybe combining it with a staff senate meeting.

7. Special Guest: Karen A. Reardon, PhD, JD, OMBUDS Officer

Dr. Reardon introduces herself and discusses the role of the Ombuds officer at Stockton. The role of the Ombudsperson is to mitigate disputes, facilitate conversations, and to help identify systemic issues which need to be elevated to upper administration. The discussions are informal and confidential, and the Ombuds office does not keep official records.

Dr. Reardon mentions that Dr. Joe endorses a robust Ombuds office and recommends faculty and staff be trained as adjunct mediators for the Ombuds office.

Natajia Manger asks Dr. Reardon why she feels the ombudsperson role has not been successful previously. Natajia also asks if there is an industry standard of the ombudsperson only being a part-time position. Dr. Reardon cannot speak to the past and explains there is no industry standard concerning the status of the position.

Natajia Manger asks Dr. Reardon how she views the role of the ombudsperson. Dr. Reardon says the ombudsperson should be seen as an experienced resource for conflicts, policies and practices, etc. who will provide counsel.

Natajia Manger asks Dr. Reardon what the difference is between the EEO office and the Ombuds office. Dr. Reardon explains the EEO is a formal process, as they investigate concerns and file official cases.

Dr. Reardon mentions Dr. Joe and Dr. Sass plan to assess the need to make the Ombuds officer a full-time position.

Dr. Reardon stresses the importance of conversations to be forward looking.

While context is important, the focus of the Ombuds office is to move forward.

Dave Bush asks Dr. Reardon about the office's flexibility in accommodating meeting requests and also if the office is open to visitors. Dr. Reardon explains there is some flexibility in her schedule.

Dave Bush asks Dr. Reardon what are considered important issues. Dr. Reardon states all issues are important.

8. Open Floor

Kate Spalding asks if there are any updates on the 4-day work week pilot. Lauren Fonseca has no updates.

9. Adjournment

Ashley Jones moves to adjourn at 12:25p, Kate Spalding seconds.