



Baylor University

STAFF COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

May 9, 2023 at 10:30am, Cashion 501

Members Present: Bailey, Ashleigh; Becker, Meghan; Black, Kimberly; Chavez, Cynthia; Cowan, Tranquility; Derry, Chelsea; Ehlers, Libby; English, Lexi; Gardell, Reese; Garrett, Rachel; Gibson, Brett; Hoke, Lori; Holland, Amanda; Honza, Sherri; Huntington, Andy; Johnson, Jenifer; King, Hannah; McCulloch, Carol; McSpadden, Erin; Morgan, Janna; Muhl, Lauren; Ramirez, Daniel; Rogers, Keegan; Shoemake, Rick; Telep, Andrew; Weber, Lauren

Welcome

Crystal Diaz-Espinoza

Meeting was called to order at 10:32am.

Prayer Requests & Invocation

Denise Ray

Guest

Linda Livingstone
President, Baylor University

Thanks for supporting students and your work on Staff Council; conversation and insights are helpful and valued. Updates – University is making progress with strategic plan, this year we have supported R1 designation, and faculty hiring. Baylor is 1 of 4 institution with Marshall and Truman scholars! Give Light fundraiser hopes to raise almost 1.5Million; several new Chairs have been funded and multiple scholarships. Scholarships for affordability plan to support highest needs to fully fund tuition for this group of students and next year's class will be the first to receive that support with Regents support. Next Board of Regents meeting will have new members, including a new Chair-lots of information coming from next meeting so please read the information that will come out Friday. New strategic plan in the works; Tiffany Hogue present and reported 16 members on strategic plan committee-members were not selected to represent their unit, diversity of discipline included-also array of time served at University; committee will meet monthly thru next April with scheduled listening sessions planned; all faculty, staff, and students will be able to share and attend listening sessions; Marketing & Communications department is building a website to share info. Finally, everyone was encouraged to take Sabbath rest during summer. Question and answer period followed.

Old Business

- April Minutes Crystal Diaz-Espinoza
Rick Shoemake motioned to approve, Luke Whiting seconded; motion carried
- HR Updates Crystal Diaz-Espinoza
Discussion regarding response to hoax – campus received an "all clear" but no message had been formally dispatched to BU community; one local ISD (and possibly others) is moving

*Next Staff Council Meeting:
Tuesday, June 13, 2023*



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to 4-day school week, so HR is looking at how that will affect Baylor staff-please share input; no solutions in place yet.

- Faculty Senate Update Kimberly Black
 - Student Government was guest and they pitched several changes on behalf of students, for example having Canvas courses and syllabus available early, but faculty pushed back a little on that; also encouraged faculty to look at cheaper book options and opportunities for students to participate in research
 - Food insecurity fund update – currently \$5,000 short of endowment level
 - Pronouns- University doesn't have a stance on this
 - Winter-mester - not changing
 - Conversation about faculty titles
 - UMR visits for Speech Therapy was 30 and changed back to 60, which is what many were used to under Blue Cross Blue Shield
 - looking for continuity/equity for retiring Faculty as it relates to getting help moving out of space
 - Baptist only seats on committees - becomes an issue as university moves toward more diversity
- Committee Reports Committee Chair/Rep
 - Constitution & Bylaws (Rick Shoemake) – working on editing document with updated
 - Marketing and Communications (Hannah King) – working on a letter projected to be ready in June; no longer pursuing a spot on HR
 - Membership (Crystal Diaz-Espinoza) - Elections will open today or tomorrow and will be open for 1 week; Staff will receive notification via HR when ready
 - Scholarship – no report
 - Service – no report
 - Spirit Shirts – no report
 - STAAF – A big “thank you” to the committee for providing lunch for today’s meeting
 - University Committees
- Working Groups -Final Report Working Group Chair/Rep
 - Tuition Remission (Chelsea Derry) -terminal degree benefit issue - HR says it's up to program, Denise Ray will provide contact information for program directors;
 - Flex-time - Time to review Qualtrics data received

New Business

- Vote on Chair-Elect and Secretary, 2023-2024
 - Chair-Elect → Lauren Muhl - Rick Shoemake motioned to approve, Denise Ray seconded; motion carried
 - Secretary → Chelsea Derry – Daniel Ramirez motioned to approve, Luke Whiting seconded; motion carried

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- Introduce new Executive Board members
-Brett - Chaplain, Rick Shoemake (pending vote) - Parliamentarian, Daniel Ramirez -Web master, Treasurer - pending
- Presentations/Awards for outgoing members (Lexi English) – Certificates were presented to outgoing members and awards to outgoing executive board members

Announcements/Reminder

- Cultural Connection Celebration – Truett Great Hall. May 9th!

May Birthdays – Hannah King

Adjourn

Tranquility Cowan motioned to adjourn, Luke Whiting seconded; motion passed

Enjoy Lunch and Dr. Pepper Floats!

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