

Staff Association Agenda
April 14, 2021, 3:00pm
Zoom (Senators & Invited Guests)

All Staff Association Members: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpzuOWUpZAA>

Senators Present: Evan Banks, Cathy Bryson, Tiffany Crawford, Derek Evans, Jessica Frogge, Amber Halstead, Rene Hill, Andrea Keller, Kathy Kelly, Kendy Scudder, Melissa Stallbaumer, Debbie Vaughn

Senators Absent: Jean Foster, Lisa May

Invited Guests

- Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, President
- Dr. Doug Davenport, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
- Darrell Morrison, Vice President of Finance and Administration (unable to attend, with regret)
- Dr. Greg Lindsteadt, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Kennedy report:

- Not much additional information to report since last week's town hall.
- Very appreciative of all staff for working hard to get across the finish line during this semester. Covid response team has developed new guidelines. Working on more thorough communication, including website updates.
- Met with SGA to discuss lagging student enrollment in fall courses. Please help in whatever way you can. Will be generating a list of students who need to enroll and pushing it out across campus. University wide increased marketing efforts to encourage enrollment.
- Keller will serve as the staff association representative on the Provost search committee.
- A question was posed if the town hall was recorded and if it could be shared for those that were unable to attend. Dr. Kennedy will inquire and follow up.
- Extended the invitation to meet with smaller groups for more personal conversation.
- Discussion about how the CARES act funding was distributed to students.

Dr. Davenport Report:

- Multidisciplinary Research Day (MRD) was a success. Thanks for the team effort led by the Applied Learning Committee.
- Currently creating the Griffon Office of Applied Learning (GOAL) and will be chaired by Dr. Ducey with a goal to strengthen and expand opportunities
- Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has a new staff role that will be served by Claudia Baer.
- Advising and Registration-There will be an all-out blitz to encourage students to meet with their advisor and enroll because many have not at this point in time. Thank you in advance to staff for reaching out to students and providing encouragement to register. There is concerning

information about the number of students that do not intend to return in the fall per Ed Sights survey.

- MWSU no longer offers the ACT test on our campus, but we have offered the residual test. We are now test optional, which removes a barrier for students.

Darrell Morrison Report:

- See President's Report

March Meeting Minutes Approval

- Kelly moved to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Frogge. Motion passes unanimously.

Committee Reports

- Salary & Fringe: Met to discuss faculty salary reports. Would be nice to have a similar report for staff but that is very challenging because titles are different at every institution. Banks will follow up with the ad hoc budget committee to see if a salary review is a possibility in the near future.
- Constitution & Bylaws: Will meet this Friday. Need to update the membership section of the constitution because it lists the old classification system. Will consult Sara Freemyer to make sure it is accurate. Will ask specifically about MOAs. Will review the Executive Board Vice President duties within the bylaws to clarify that keeping up with the constituent list is a documented duty. Will look at the description of the Welcoming Committee to see if it needs revised.
- Welcoming: Looking for 2 additional committee members due to recent resignations. Looking for ways to welcome new members under a very limited budget. Will need supplies in the next few months once the current stash is depleted. Have created a new postcard.
- Election: Colette Weipert has recently left MWSU. She did a great job serving the election committee. In her absence, Barb Harris and Debbie Vaughn have agreed to co-chair the committee for the remainder of the year. They have received a total of 10 nominations (5 exempt, 5 non-exempt) for the 2021-2022 Staff Senate as of today. They would encourage more nominations in the event not everyone accepts the nomination. Please submit all names to Debbie Vaughn by Friday, April 23rd at 4:30pm.
- Professional Development: Will meet tomorrow with Annette Weeks to discuss limited funds available through the Center for Workforce Development and how it can serve the staff as a whole.
- Special Events: Thank you to all Griffon Lunch Hour and e-sports staff event attendees. The next opportunity will be Friday, April 16 with a Plant & Seed Exchange. Committee will meet very soon to discuss potential summer event.
- Advantage: No report

President's Report

- The Staff Association is very thankful to Dr. Davenport for his service to the university and wish him well in his upcoming retirement.

- Thank you to Kendy Scudder, Steve Van Dyke and Kim Weddle for the eggs!
- Thank you to Barb Harris & Debbie Vaughn for fulfilling the election committee responsibilities after Colette's resignation from MWSU.
- Darrell Morrison was unable to attend the meeting (with regrets), but provided the following report:
 - Still on track to come in with a balanced budget; waiting on information from the foundation but he has been assured the funds will arrive
 - Hopeful to take next year's budget to next week's BOG meeting (includes 6.5% tuition/fee increase)
 - Covid Funds
 - 1st round-amounts distributed
 - 2nd round-50% has been obligated thus far
 - 3rd round (rescue act)-no guidance yet nor official amount; state also anticipates receiving money from this; project we cannot use it for operation (which is what we desperately need)
 - \$1.8 million from each of the 1st 2 rounds went to students (which included employee/dependents)
 - Upcoming projects (deferred maintenance funds):
 - Parking lots, upgrading halls
- Update from monthly meeting with administration:
 - We are able to have an outdoor summer event!
 - Chiefs training camp (concerns about staffing it if it is a go)
 - Contracts/certificates of appointment are being reworded/reworked. Faculty contracts are the current priority with staff to follow. Goal of having them ready prior to July 1.
 - Summer hours will remain status quo (campus will not close on Fridays)
 - Is there a way for senate be more involved with campus wide recognitions (Ex. April 21st is Administrative Professionals Day. What could we do?)
 - Challenge from administration for future senate goals:
 - Bring issues and solutions to the table
 - Create work within our committees that is valued in order to get more involvement within our association
 - Staff Association membership

First Vice President's Report

- No report

Faculty Liaison Report

- No report

Other Business/Open Discussion/Announcements

- Incoming senators will meet in June in order to select a new Executive Board. They will decide how to conduct meetings during the 2021-2022 year.

- Discussion about current senator positions (16) and if that number should be reduced considering the number of staff positions that have been eliminated. Faculty senate is comprised of 8% of the number of faculty within each college.

Mark your calendars: Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 3pm.