



**Employee Relations Organizations Meeting
February 26th, 2021 – 10am to 11am
Zoom Meeting**

Representatives Present:

ERC: Amber Carter, Jackie Cotton, Linda Johnson, Lyncie Crawford, Nathan Tipton, Robyn Taylor, Vickie Christian, Andrea Briggs, Janette Smith, Nury Magana, Joyce Hamilton, Katora Jones, Jasmine Bowles, Debbie Long, Linda Johnson

ESC: Blake Dingman, Daniel Hutchinson, Kimberlee Norwood, Stephanie Breuer, Venus Claxton, Dorothea Owens, Kaining Zhi, Yin Su, Selena Strong, Lisa Hall

Minutes Secretary: Kimberlee Norwood

Representatives Absent: Jean Perdicaris, April Thompson, Jackie Fox, Bran Upchurch

Guests: Tom Laughner, Director of Teaching and Learning Center; Damon Davis, HR; Cierra Richmond, HR; Anesha Jones, HR; Brittany Murray, HR

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

10:00am Welcome and Attendance – Debbie Long

10:05am Blackboard Ultra upgrade – Dr. Tom Laughner

- Upgrading from Blackboard Learn to Blackboard Ultra
- Increased local staff for Blackboard support; no longer using Blackboard Help Desk
- Better experience for instructors; more integrated functions
- Spring 2021 Early Pilot, no live courses
- Summer 2021 Base navigation activation, training begins
- Fall 2021 expand pilot, continue training, continue migration
- January 2022 Blackboard Ultra goes live!
- tlc@uthsc.edu – email them if interested in piloting a course

10:20am ERO Teams training – Lisa Hall

- Lisa was called away so she will record a training lesson for us.
- Microsoft Teams uses all Microsoft programs, i.e. Word, Excel, etc.
- Chat feature is called Persistence

11:00am Announcements

Damon Davis – Job Family Project has concluded. If you have questions, email ddavis24@uthsc.edu. Reminder that annual evaluations are due March 31, 2021. This is a hard deadline.

Nathan Tipton – Physiology has completed employee evaluations.

Robin Taylor – CON has finished their move to the Crowe Building. Lots to unpack but delighted for the new space. Interviewing for an Administrative Associate II position. Student Affairs-CON has a couple of open positions.

Dan Hutchinson – drinking fountain filters are being changed out. We have had a lot of water damage on campus due to the recent freeze and we are working diligently to get it all cleaned up and back in working order. The Northwest round tower on the Dunn building is due to come down in a couple of days once the rain clears out.

Venus Claxton – Dr. Cyndi Russell has been named interim Vice Chancellor for Academic affairs. The electronic time entry will go live in June 2021. CHiPs – Dr. Chad Epps passed away just prior to Christmas. CHiPs is currently working on accreditation. Site review will April 28th. The Society for Simulation has developed a scholarship in Dr. Epps name.

Jean Perdicaris – Hyman Building suffered severe water damage. Many ceiling tiles fell, and we had waterfalls from the 5th floor down to the ground floor. The 4th floor houses AFSA VC, AVC and Director offices as well as my office.

Blake Dingman – Dentistry is navigating the remodeling and parking issues, but things are moving along.

Katora Jones – forensic center, most of staff has completed evaluations. The center has been fully accredited with National Association of Medical Examiners. We have two new hires.

Amber Carter– Communications and Marketing is moving to the Mooney Building from 920 Madison Plaza.

Linda Johnson – College of Health Professions. Believes all employee evaluations are complete.

Yin Su – Most are working in the office; a lot of funding has come in and we have several hero level professors involved in COVID research. A lot of ongoing training and seminars, those interested can visit <https://www.uthsc.edu/research/>.



Jackie Cotton – Finance is waterlogged now. Anthony Ferrara has move to the Chancellor’s old space. Interviewing for a payroll clerk Brenda Falcinelli is retiring later this year.

Selena Strong – Pharmacy employee evaluations are completed. We had our pinning ceremony for Class of 2023. Sheila Cooper is retiring June 30th.

Vickie Christian – Andrea White has left Pharmacy and we are working to replace her.

Debbie Long – Reminder: virtual meet and greet coming up March 26th during our regular meeting time. Every committee member is required to attend this event. We will have breakout rooms for each department and based on exempt/nonexempt status.