



Staff Senate Meeting

April 24th, 2025 – 2:00-3:00pm

In Person/Zoom

Moderator: Keshia Giboney

Representatives Present: Kyle Smith, Keshia Giboney, Sherry Henson, Michelle Bollenbach, Dewana Oliver, Yin Su, Ashley P Woods, Shenicia Richardson, Jay Sawe, McKenzie Scofield, Charles Hicks, Cynthia Tooley, Terri Fought, Patti Smith, Mercedes Tolbert Nick Ayers, Shannon Brown, Brittney Murray, Peter Hunter, Peggy Reisser

Representatives Absent (excused): Debbie Long, Ramona Jackson, Elaine Robinson, Jessica Ross, Brenda Coleman,

Representatives Absent (unexcused):

Minutes Secretary: Kyle Smith

Visitors: Peter Buckley

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

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| 2:00 pm | Dr. Buckley Speaks |
| 2:27 pm | Recap of Last Meeting |
| 2:28 pm | Announced New Committees and Members |
| 2:30 pm | Reminder of Annual Compliance Due Date |
| 2:35 pm | Campus Departmental Updates |
| 2:45 pm | Closing Remarks and End of Meeting |

Keshia Giboney began the meeting. Attendance was documented Via Zoom Attendees.

Dr. Buckley Speaks

Dr. Buckley speaks once more on what a wonderful addition the new College of Medicine Dean Hocker will be from the University of Texas, speaking of his skill in medical school accreditation. His expected start time will be toward the end of June. Dr. Buckley also spoke more about the great work that Dr. Alway provided as the Dean for the College of Health Professions, and that Ashley Harkwriter will be stepping in as interim. They have narrowed the search for the Vice Chancellor of Communication and marketing down the finalists for the position. Their emphasis is seeking an experienced leader who has previously worked within the health care industry.

Dr. Buckley spoke about the recent Executive Order, focusing on Legal and Medical accreditation. It is too early to speak too much on the topic. Dr. Buckley could see it posing a potential challenge for the University as a whole, but that the Contingency Planning committee is working closely with the legal team, including at the system level to create a plan. He mentioned that Christian Brothers University and the University of Memphis got their visas yanked and we may be at the risk of deportation as well.

He ended his time with good news. Before getting on this Zoom meeting, he was able to fill out a survey on Randy Boyd. Dr. Buckley expressed how amazing of a president he is and the support he showed on the business building in Martin.

He complimented the works of Raaj Kurapati, working behind the scenes to earn us more funding. It's not much to start but we now have a platform to build our revenue on. Many places are not getting salary increases in this economy, so even though it does not feel like enough, he views this as good news. There is no money for the new College of Medicine building, but that is because we did not ask for it. What we did do is everywhere they met with the proper authorities in meetings, they expressed that this was their plans for the next year as a priority. President Boyd is behind this idea as well.

The last point of business commencement is May 12th or 13th and he views this as an all-in effort. He said that he is proud of the fact that the day will be just as significant and important to the students, while still saving money on the event compared to previous years. Everything will be done in one day as opposed to two days with two separate facilities. He also believes that HR organized a great admin appreciation day.

Recap of Last Meeting

Keshia Giboney realized the meeting had not started recording but chose to postpone it until Dr. Buckley finished speaking to not interrupt him. She then provided the meeting minutes to serve as a reminder of the last time we met.

Announced New Committees and Members

The committees were formed and filled as follows:

Membership Coordinator	Charles Hicks, Jr.
Membership Coordinator	Patti Smith
Membership Coordinator	David Meyer
Communications Coordinator	Ashley Woods
Communications Committee	McKenzie Scofield
Employee Engagement Coordinator	Mercedes Tolbert
Employee Engagement Committee	Sherry Henson
Employee Engagement Committee	Cynthia Tooley
Employee Engagement Committee	Peggy Reisser

This information will be updated on the Staff Senate Website.

Reminder of Annual Compliance Due Date

Keshia took the time to note that the Annual Compliance due date is coming up, and encouraging the committee to assist in reminding individuals to complete the training.

Campus Departmental Updates

McKenzie Scofield with Communications and Marketing reminded alongside compliance training, the evaluation period has also extended to the end of May.

While not in attendance for this meeting, Jessica Ross presented a question for the Senate, that was provided by Keshia Giboney. *“I would like to mention something that could possibly be added to the agenda for discussion. I work in the General Education Building in Educational Development. Many of my colleagues have complaints about the new system in which our custodial staff are working. Recently, they implemented a system to where they are now working in teams to maintain and clean the areas. The GEB is a building with extremely high traffic, and we have been noticing that since the implementation of the new system, the areas are not being maintained as well as they were before. Many of our restrooms are going days without being cleaned well, the restrooms are out of soap and paper towels on many occasions, the lab areas are not being cleaned well, trash is not always getting pulled, and the floors are extremely soiled.*

Not sure if this is an issue for our committee to discuss but I was asked by my manager to at least mention it.“

A general consensus was formed that the quality has lowered for areas across campus. It was also mentioned due to the staffing cuts that occurred to remember we can do our own parts to help keep areas clean as well. There was an emphasis that the question being asked was more for an understanding to gain clarity, rather than coming at it as an accusatory mindset.

A large part of the pain point also seemed to be the time it takes to have repairs performed and some non-clarity on the cost of services. It was resolved that we would invite someone from facilities to a future meeting to hopefully address concerns and foster clarity.

Closing Remarks and End of Meeting.

Keshia adjourned the meeting.