

**Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 19th- 1:00 PM**

**Senators Present:** Takeyra Wagner, Kaitlyn Norton, June Guillory, Richard Robinson, Daniel Manuel, Junetha Silas

**Absent:** Donald Collins

**Guests:** Dr. Paul Coreil, Connie Cooper, Linda Smith, Renee West, Chad Gauthier

**Chaired by:** Takeyra Wagner

**Minutes Taken by:** Kaitlyn Norton

**Purpose:** To address Staff Senate issues addressed by the agenda and hear updates from senators and the LSUA community

Takeyra called meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

**Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes** (*July 15, 2021*)

- Moved by: Takeyra Wagner
- Seconded by: Richard Robinson

**Update from Dr. Coreil**

- Due to schedule conflicts, he has not been able to make the last couple of meetings, but still keeps in contact with Keyra about Staff Senate updates. He was glad to be able to attend today and acknowledged our leadership changes. Dr. Coreil tries to encourage all staff members to get involved with Staff Senate. Vaccination is obviously a big push that will be happening on campus, as well as, continued mask mandates and sanitizing/cleaning efforts. Our campus cannot require the COVID vaccine until they are fully approved by FDA, however, the LSU system has already decided to require the mandatory vaccination or waiver after approval. Our Health Center has the vaccinations available and the Governor is offering \$100 gift cards for those vaccinated. We will be starting our own vaccination prize programs for students and faculty and staff. This is not so much about requiring the vaccination, but mostly to keep our campus open. We do not want to go virtual or have to restrict any part of campus, if we can avoid them. Please encourage those around you to get vaccinated and wear their masks- on campus and in the community. Booster shots are in the works and will also be administered on campus. Dr. Coreil will be in the Health Center as soon as they are available. Most of our faculty and staff will be receiving about a 3.5% average raise. The Governor and his team approved the raise for faculty, but the university is covering the raise for staff members. This will be effective on your next steps. Dr. Coreil maintains an open-door

policy and he means it. He cannot maintain the campus and know where our efforts need to be put, without hearing from us.

### **Open/Old Business**

- Vice President Position
  - Daniel Manuel was elected as Vice President.
- Staff Senate Newsletter
  - Takeyra will send out an example by next Tuesday and will be asking for advice from current senators before sending out to campus. We will be featuring a staff spotlight—Takeyra and Kaitlyn selected two for this issue, but if you have someone in mind for future issues, please let us know.

### **New Business**

#### **Other Business/Senator Reports**

- Donald Collins- absent
- June Guillory- trying to get all the new employees hired and finalize the new academic structure with the new positions and title changes.
- Daniel Manuel- swamped with advising during the day and at night managing and attending WOW events. Feel free to reach out to their office or Haylee Malone if you want to volunteer, as we have a lot of events coming up.
- Kaitlyn Norton- wrapping up admission for Fall 2021 and beginning recruitment for Fall 2022.
- Richard Robinson- IET is working on making sure everything is working properly for the start of the semester and upgrading some classrooms with new technology, hopefully with LSUA Cares funds.
- Junetha Silas- the LSUA decals have come in and availability at the Auxiliary Services window.
- Takeyra Wagner- same announcements as Richard, since they are in the same department.

#### **Open Forum/Comments from the Public (as the time allows)**

- Connie Cooper- As the director of the new Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, she has been making her rounds introducing herself and listening. She is focusing on recalibrating the Diversity Counsel and it will be the DEI Leadership Team. Connie will be assessing who should serve on the counsel. Then we will move into an internal assessment and this data will help us develop a Diversity Roadmap. These are her two primary priorities right now, along side looking at our recruitment and retention BIPOC

(people of color and unrepresented groups). This is where campus is at right now and she is going to continue talking to different groups on campus to get them comfortable talking about diversity, race, issues that come up on campus and classrooms. Teaching people how to navigate these areas and to get them looking at things through a different lens is helping Connie build relationships with areas on campus. She has also been surveying everyone she speaks to. They begin with a beginning survey about their comfort levels prior to the conversation and then at the end what's your comfort level now. Across the board, the ratings go up. To Connie that indicates that people are getting comfort having these conversations, they find relevancy to it and they also feel that it is valuable to their role on campus. We do a great job at LSUA in these areas already, but her job is to enhance and improve so we can be the best that we can. That way we can set up all students for success. Connie is located in Mulder 326 and she wants to hear from you. If you have ideas about how to make LSUA better in these areas, please reach out.

Motion to end the meeting by TaKeyra: ended at 1:28 pm

- Motion by: Takeyra Wagner
- Seconded by: Kaitlyn Norton