

STAFF COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2021

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 VIA ZOOM

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Alessandro Russo

Approval of September 2021 Staff Council General Meeting Agenda

-Motion to approve: Ann K.

-Second: Nicole T.

-All approve

Approval of June 2021 Staff Council General Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve: Ann K.

-Second: Sharon O.

-All approve

Chair's Report (Alessandro Russo):

-Staff Council Execs met with the CSU Chancellor, Joseph Castro, last week and brought up salary and health concerns. He said that there should be a report about salaries that goes out in the spring.

-Convocation went well. Discussed how staff are the hub of campus and keep things running

Vice Chair's Report (Ann Kinsey):

-No report.

Secretary's Report (Joseph Phillips):

-Minutes and agendas are updated on Staff Council's SharePoint up to June 2021

Treasurer's Report (Nicole Torres):

-\$2161.59 is the balance between the two Staff Council accounts

Representatives at Large Report (Kim Glick & Kristin Bonetati):

-No report.

9:00 a.m. Time Certain: CSULB President Jane Conoley

-We have great enrollment numbers this fall 2021 semester. The recent audit showed 39,000+ students enrolled, was almost right on target

-Vaccination rates continue to go up, we hope to see improvement among various groups on campus to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

-The CSU Chancellor told me about the staff's concerns about there being a sense of an uneven telecommuting policy—I think there needs to be a proper telecommuting policy made to address your concerns. I do imagine that telecommuting will play a part in reimagining staff or faculty roles in the future

Q: What would you say to us staff members today to keep us motivated in these challenging times?

A: All the signs thus far are positive. COVID cases are low, and while our processes aren't perfect, the teams across campus have accomplished much in their efforts to keep campus open. You are all doing a fabulous job and the staff are the spine of the university, and the university is grateful for your efforts

9:15 a.m. Time Certain: Dr. Kimberly Fodran, Student Health Services (SHS)

-The Delta variant is now 99% of the sequenced strain in Los Angeles County. It is more efficiently transmitted and there is a higher viral load. It is resulting in more severe disease, and the original assumptions about COVID have not applied to this strain. Over ½ of the infections on campus may be classified as "breakthrough" infections, so please continue to be cautious even if vaccinated and working on campus. Note: The vaccine does help greatly protect the vaccinated from hospitalizations.

-The total weekly COVID cases from last week was 37, which among ~25,000 folks who may come to campus is not too high of a number

-Working on messaging for those who may be coming to campus with symptoms to stay home so they don't spread the virus on campus. If you have symptoms, please do not come to campus and make sure to get a test just in case

-We've had a couple of classes where we had about 2 cases per class, but appear unrelated. If there's a cluster of cases somewhere, public health takes note of that.

-If students are exposed in the classroom, a notification goes out to the entire class on next-steps. If non-compliant, goes to student conduct. If students have general questions, direct to Student Health Services.

Q: May you please remind us of what happens if a staff member tests positive? How long until they return to work, what should their co-workers be concerned about?

A: If someone in your department tests positive, close contacts (6 ft for 15 mins) are contacted by student health services. Will give recommendations to you including to possibly get tested or stay home for a few days or so. For those who test positive, they will receive further directions

Q: If there is a positive case in a class, must instructors provide a negative test result?

A: Yes, but if vaccinated and no symptoms, you can come to campus unless someone tells you otherwise

Q: Will there be flu shots provided this semester?

A: Yes, we are awaiting an allocation perhaps in October or November (later in the fall).

Special Order - Campus Repopulation: Nancy Torres:

-Working hard to provide the infrastructure for the vaccine and vaccine exemption process on campus. Currently looking at non-represented at staff who have not complied with the requirement to report vaccine status.

-A 3rd party will be helping with contact tracing now that students are back on campus. Also, campus will be using a 3rd party to assist with religious or medical exemptions.

-There is still a way to get tested or get a vaccine on campus. There will be an expansion of testing opportunities and vaccine opportunities shortly.

Q: Can you clarify the vaccine requirements on campus? Is it just for students and non-represented employees?

A: It's for everyone.

Q: For campus repopulation, it feels like the departments have their hands tied—when asked about if we can telecommute, they seem nervous to do anything. So, a common answer is just come to campus.

A: Telecommuting is still available, but that decision is made on local level. The temporary telecommuting agreement is still in play, though now there is a system-wide agreement as

well. Looking at if there are any gaps in the system-wide agreement so that we can put in our CSULB policy.

Q: Now that there may be approval for a booster shot for those who may be immuno-compromised – will campus be distributing?

A: Yes, there should be something for campus. Conversations with public health ongoing about having a site on campus for boosters.

Ways and Means Committee Report Nicole Torres:

-There will be a fundraiser with **Naples Rib Company** (see below) – can do lunch or dinner!

CSULB Staff Council Fundraiser

Wednesday, September 29 at Naples Rib Company, Long Beach

Take-Out 10am-9pm; Dine-In 5pm-9pm

5800 E. 2nd Street, Long Beach, CA 90803

(562) 439-7427; www.ribcompany.com

-We want to solicit your opinion on how often we should do our fundraisers—let me know in the chat if you would support Staff Council monthly or every other month. We'll go for CPK next (chat input was in favor of monthly)

Q: I would support monthly or every other month, but would it be possible to have them (those doing the fundraiser) come to campus? It's difficult to go off campus for lunch, and I imagine others feel similarly

A: We had done a fundraiser with Carls Jr. in the past, perhaps we can do something like that again

Staff Development Committee Report Susan Tsuji:

-No report

Bylaws and Policies Committee Report Charleen Rice:

-No report

Academic Senate Report Neil Hultgren:

-Thank you for inviting me to be a part of Staff Council's meetings. I'm new to the Academic Senate this year, Jessica Pandya is now a Dean at CSU Dominguez Hills

-We have been discussing updates about COVID-19 and its variants and possible effect on campus

-Currently revising policies such as on grades and withdrawals from classes, as well as affordability of class textbooks and materials

-There will be various searches going on this year, we have been currently working on filling the search committees for what you'll be voting on today

Nominating Committee Report Ann Kinsey:

-We will be running two elections today as follows:

-Elections:

- Staff member for the Search Committee for the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

-Nominations: Bryan Rodriguez

-Vote was unanimous.

- Staff member for the Search Committee for the AVP of High Impact Practices

-Nominations: Sharon Olson

-Vote was unanimous

Special Events Committee Report Christina Salvador/Kristin Bonetati:

-We are planning another virtual **Spooktacular** for Friday, October 29th 12pm. You can submit photos for the competitions again such as for the pet costume category that was popular last year.

-The annual "Cherishing the Children" event may be on a virtual platform later this year—Staff Council is figuring this out

Announcements

-Next meeting - 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM Staff Council - Monthly Meetings Online ZOOM - **October 8, 2021**

-Congratulations Sharon Olson on your 40 years of service to CSULB!

-Carol Sanchez – We have a few workshops coming up in HR

-Financial Workshop from Fidelity (on MyBeach page)

-Open Enrollment begins Monday, September 20th – October 15th

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Adjournment 9:37 a.m. – 1st Ann K.; 2nd Sharon O.

Minutes Recorded by:

Joseph Phillips, Staff Council Secretary 2021/22