

Unclassified Professional Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023

Call to Order and Welcome:

President Dr. Greg Belcher called the first meeting of the year to order at 2:00 p.m.

Reading of the May 3, 2023 minutes. Motion to approve by Michael Woodrum, seconded by Josh Letner.

Dr. Belcher asked that all Senators and Guests introduce themselves.

Ex-Officio Reports:

University Leadership Team Liaison report: Dr. Howard Smith discussed the following:

1. Current discussions with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and plans for them to move to campus. He discussed program sharing and other opportunities this might bring to PSU.
2. Gorilla Rising is moving along. We are hoping to finalize plans soon since there is a sunset on funding.
3. Women's Soccer is coming to PSU and we're excited to be involved in this growing sport.
4. He was glad to see us using the Strategic Plan and discussed that other units are discussing how each of them contribute.
5. 20th Day (census) is coming up on 09/18/23. He explained how numbers are interpreted and how each cohort of student contributes to the total.
6. The Student Success Center is up and running finding successes and bumps along the way.
7. Dr. Smith discussed how legislative funding affects PSU and some plans we are discussing to try to help cover the gap between state funding and the gap left that we have to cover.

Student Government report: none

Faculty Senate President report: Rebecca Book shared the following:

1. They are busy organizing committee placement. This is a large job.
2. Still working through the Pitt Pathway Program back to General Studies as is required by KBOR.
3. Units are busy reviewing prior and upcoming needs for Program Reviews.

Unclassified Support Staff report: none

Old Business: none

Committee Appointments: Dr. Belcher explained the responsibilities of each and asked for volunteers

1. Parking Committee – Jamie Rink
2. Sustainability Committee – Rachel Schenker
3. Employee Initiatives – Tammy Higgins, Michael Woodrum and Shawna Witherspoon
4. Satisfaction Survey Subcommittee – Dr. Kelley Manley, Tammy Higgins, Michael Woodrum, Josh Letner, Angela Ashmore and Erica Martin
5. Elections – Tammy Higgins, Eva Sager and Dr. Greg Belcher
6. Bylaws – Tammy Higgins, Eva Sager and Dr. Greg Belcher

7. Professional Development Scholarships – Rachel Schenker, Chair, Dr. Kelley Manley, Luecitra Haraughty, and Michael Woodrum

New Business:

Dr. Manley discussed how we can take 3-4 initiatives from the Strategic Plan to work through this academic year, focusing on Goal 3: Access, Inclusion and Belonging and Goal 4: Organizational Culture, and Design Principles: Love Our Place and Care For People. She shared of some discussion within the executive committee meetings of how we did a small survey of UPS employees over the summer asking for feedback on stumbling blocks and areas of concern within their department. The primary responses included: Professional Development needs; A better sense of campus community; and better communication across campus. Dr. Manley asked that each senator share this with the colleagues within their cohort prior to the next UPS meeting. A discussion ensued and it was decided that we would check with HRS to make sure there are no issues, then share a list of each cohort to our senators, and also add this to our website for all UPS employee review. We will also add this to the Pitt State Daily to highlight us doing a 2nd round of surveys to a larger audience. We plan to use a secure tool for anonymity and security. Dr. Manley also shared that in the most recent meeting with Dr. Shipp, he took a minute to appreciate our use of the Strategic Plan, and encouraged our endeavors. He also asked if Jamie Brooksher and later, himself, could attend our meetings for updates.

Dr. Belcher discussed a cut in our Professional Development funding, and a discussion regarding other funding options was had.

Dr. Belcher also mentioned that we currently need two representatives from the President's 2 cohort and to please discuss among your colleagues for a volunteer.

After no further business, a motion was made by Michael Woodrum to dismiss and seconded by Josh Letner. The meeting adjourned at 3:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Higgins, Past-President