



Pittsburg State University
University Support Staff Senate
Minutes of Meeting, March 10, 2021

USSS President Terri Blessent called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. Senators present: Carrol Bell, Terri Blessent, Brandi Boswell, Ann Courtney, Kevin Elrod, Michelle Hensley, Woody Lopez, Diane Letner, Jeannice Parker, Tish Potter, Stephanie West, Stephanie Willis, Mary Wolfe, and Dan Workman. Betty Geier, Jerrica Lair, Terry Pierce, and Cindy VanBecelaere were excused. Guests present were Faculty Senate President Dr. Cole Shewmake and Vice President of Student Life Dr. Steve Erwin.

The vaccination clinic took place this morning.

February minutes were reviewed. Diane Letner moved to approve, Woody Lopez seconded, and the motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Michelle Hensley moved to approve, Diane Letner seconded, and the motion carried.

Other reports:

There was no representative from the University Professional Staff.

Representing the Faculty Senate, Dr. Cole Shewmake reported that Commencement would be similar to last fall: available virtually, with a very swift walkthrough and only so many guests per student. It has been moved to the weekend before finals (Apr. 30-May 1) except Nursing, which will take place on May 7th.

Course delivery is mostly returning to F2F next fall as much as possible.

President's report: Terri met with Dr. Scott on Monday, March 8th. The two primary discussion topics were the town hall and the vaccination clinic. The town hall recording was made available yesterday. Please view it, as it details lots of legislative activity. As regards vaccinations, the administration is passionate about returning to normal campus life – this is one positive step, and they fought hard to get the shots on campus. There will be a lot of other questions – when can we stop wearing masks, etc. – and those will be addressed in upcoming months. In four weeks the next clinic will be held for the second vaccination.

Elections – Ann Courtney - nothing to report

Public relations – Ann Courtney - nothing to report

Welcoming – Diane Letner - new employee Christopher Katzer has joined the University police.

Parking – Jordan Harding was not present.

Board of Governors – Michelle Hensley – hoping not to increase fees for next year. Sodexo has been hurting, and they have arrived at a funding compromise. The elevator is getting the split face replaced.

Strategic planning – Terri Blessent - first meeting is next Tuesday

Information Technology Council – Michelle Hensley - meeting was on a snow day

Campus safety and security – Betty is unable to participate, so Terri will go in her place to remaining meetings

Docking Institute questionnaire – committee felt the questions should not change. Other institutions suggested adding COVID questions. Another meeting will take place in April to confer. The Institute wants to distribute questionnaires in spring 2022. Jeannice asked if UPS chimed in at all on taking any action after the survey is compiled, because no response seemed to have been made to the prior dataset; Cole said Jason had raised that issue. Terri suggested that President's Council might need to discuss. Dr. Scott still supports the questionnaire in spite of the price more than tripling. PSU's data analysis faculty might be brought on board to examine the data. KU was not part of the previous survey, so they are suggesting some changes.

University revenue/planning committee – Terri Blessent - meeting was two weeks ago, next will be this Friday.

University legislative coordinating committee – Terri Blessent – the meeting was held Feb 26th. February revenues should have been released after the meeting. The tax bill ballooned to \$500m Gov. Kelly proposed a \$67m cut to higher education. All universities and the BOR have testified in the legislature. Kansas lost between \$290-600 million in fraudulent unemployment claims. You will get a 1099 in the mail saying the \$\$ that you were paid in unemployment. New computer system seems to have blocked further claims.

Old Business: At large seats – it was decided not to fill the remaining two at-large seats for the remainder of this academic year.

New Business: USS will not be merging with UPS. The President's Council had discussed this, and Dr. Scott stated Monday that he would not agree to the merge because the employees in each group have very different needs and wants. It is happening on other campuses throughout Kansas, however.

Eva Sager requested a judge for the Dr. Bryant Leadership Scholarship being judged next week.

Good of the order: On April 14th Doug Ball will return to talk again about the change in retirement plan. It only affects tier III employees.

Carol Oehme received the Voya award for USS. Susan Dellasega got the UPS Voya award.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.