



MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Date	Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Time	9:00 am
Location	BSC Board of Governors

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
@ 9 am - Board of Governors

Members Present: Stefanie Allen, Brenda Beasley, Denice Brown, Melinda Brown, Ashley Brownfield (President-Elect), Katie Fields, Shakira Gammill (Parliamentarian), Laura Gullett (Secretary), Stephanie Hopkins, Megan McCollough, Eli Moran, Mike Opfer (President), Nick Reynolds, Teresa Shufflin

Member(s) Absent/Excused: Christina Hamilton

Determination of Quorum: Fifteen of sixteen members were present; quorum was established.

Call to Order: President Opfer called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections to the September Meeting Minutes. Senator Reynolds motioned for approval; Senator Beasley seconded the motion. September minutes were approved as presented.

Administrative / Special Guest Comments:

President's Cabinet: Vice President Rob Yust and Dr. Brad Hodson were present. Vice President Yust shared the initial meeting of the CEBAT committee met. They are going to be meeting every couple of weeks with the task of figuring out how to make improvements to the financial situation of our campus. The opening bid for Taylor Performing Arts Center (TPAC) was received of 1.7 million dollars, which will leave funds for some interior improvements such as seats. The goal is to have it up and running in about one year. Dr. Hodson provided information around construction projects on the Oval; the rainy weather will be slowing projects. Several ADA ramps have been completed and the parking lot project is in progress. He reminded everyone to read the weekly update emails.

Faculty Senate: No representative was present. President Opfer did attend the Faculty Senate meeting. They discussed the Provost search, classroom guidelines around masks, state funding for renovations and handbook edits. There is discussion about dissolving the Athletic Committee; however, Senator McCollough stated that it is an MIAA requirement and she will follow up with the committee.

Student Senate: No representative was present. No report given.

Staff Senate Committee Reports:

President Opfer called for committee reports.

A. Communication Committee (M. Brown/Hamilton)

Senator M. Brown reported that the committee met. They wanted to thank senators for



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participating in wearing pink for breast cancer awareness during the meeting. They wanted to remind everyone that Senate meetings are viewable online. They encouraged everyone to promote Service Champ in our areas. Their discussion focused on how to get information to staff and making sure we are encouraging others to read announcements and MOSO Minute. Senator Brown also shared as a reminder that Fridays are jeans and spirit wear days; see page 107 of the Employee Handbook for more details.

B. Community Service Committee (Gullett)

Senator Gullett reported that the committee has not met, but gave an update for Angel Tree timeline. The applications process started on October 1st and will end on the 22nd. We currently have 10 children's wish list. There will be several email reminders go out in the next week.

C. Elections Committee (Brownfield/Gammill)

Senator Gammill shared that the next call for nominations for Service Champ have begun. We have 13 nominations currently. Senator Gammill thanked Senators who have already nominated someone and asked that everyone else please nominate someone by the end of the week. Nomination end on Oct. 20th.

D. Executive Committee (Opfer)

Committee met and will share the update under new business and will discuss CEBAT.

E. Governance Committee (Gammill)

Committee has not met, no report.

F. Staff Welfare Committee (Shufflin)

Senator Shufflin shared that the committee did not meet due to Southern Summit.

Campus Committee Reports

President Opfer called for committee reports.

A. COVID-19 Task Force (Opfer)

President Opfer shared that the task force continues to meet weekly and review Covid updates. Although area numbers are declining, there are some positive cases on campus. There is no discussion of ending the mask mandate. The FFCRA ended in September. With the national mandates from the Biden Administration, the MSSU legal team is reviewing this and will follow up as needed.

B. University Council (Opfer)

President Opfer shared that University Council met and Dr. VanGalen opened the meeting by sharing general updates regarding enrollment. The Provost search continues



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and applications are under review. There have been 40 applicants and hope to have someone selected for President's Cabinet to approve by December. Dr. Hodson shared about facility improvements. There will also be some Banner updates in the future.

C. Faculty Senate Athletics Committee (McCollough)

Committee has not met, no report.

D. Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee (Opfer)

Committee has not met, no report.

E. Insurance Committee (Shufflin)

Committee has not met, no report. Next meeting is in February. Open enrollment is Oct. 17th – 31st.

F. Shared Sick Leave Committee (Fields)

Committee has met via email and approved the request that was made. Human Resources will then notify the applicant of the approval. Senator Fields shared that we have 47,254.75 hours available for shared sick leave.

G. Diversity Committee (D. Brown)

Senator D. Brown shared that the committee met twice. During the September meeting they used time to meet the new committee members. Human Resources has been given \$50,000 for DEI Training for Faculty and Staff. They also allotted \$2000 for the committee to use. During the October Meeting they identified subcommittee members for Programming, Publicity & Website, MLK Planning or Student Involvement. The Officers for 21-22 are Stacey Clay - chair, Aaron Carmichael - vice-chair, Lori Musser - secretary, and Tamika Harrel - social media. They discussed fall programming and cohesiveness. Upcoming events include: Oct 20th, Safe Zone Training, and Nov 4th, Book Discussion *Trans in College*. Bill Fischer is the contact for both of these events. The next committee meeting is Nov. 1st at 3pm in Billingsly Student Center, room 309.

H. Empowering U Committee (Opfer)

Committee has not met; however, Dr. Aaron Moore was appointed the new chair of the committee. They are meeting on Oct. 18th.

I. Board of Governors (Opfer)

The meeting was started by a ribbon cutting for the new trail. A 3.5 million dollar bond was refinanced, saving 1.5 million dollars over 3 years. Dr. VanGalen's contract was extended, making his contract a total of 5 years. Dr. Alla Barry conducted a presentation



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on the cadaver lab. Information was shared on extra state funding that we hope to get. These funds would be used towards renovations for Reynolds Hall and the Taylor Performing Arts Center. The Development office had a record year with fundraising; they raised a total of 5.13 million dollars for a 6% increase from last year. Mr. Rob Mallory shared more information on athletes being able to make money on their name, likeness, and image. MSSU is leasing land for a cell tower on campus, which should be completed by the end of the year.

Unfinished Business

President Opfer asked for any unfinished business. No unfinished business was presented.

New Business

President Opfer asked for any new business.

1. CEBAT

The CEBAT committee members include President's Cabinet (Dr. VanGalen, Dr Brad Hodson, Rob Yust, Dr. Lorinda Hackett, Dr. Julie Wengert, Rob Mallory, & Heather Lesmeister), Staff Senate President (Mike Opfer), Staff Senate President-elect (Ashley Brownfield), Staff Senate Welfare Committee Chair (Teresa Shufflin), Faculty Senate President (Dr. David Locher), Faculty Senate President-elect (Dr. Otto Borchert), Faculty Senate Welfare Committee Chair (Brian Mehrens) and Empowering U chair (Dr. Aaron Moore). The committee responsibilities and purpose were shared. During the first meeting, they discussed mental health of employees, programs/program retention and compensation. The next meeting is Oct. 25th. President Opfer encouraged everyone to listen to staff and take note of concerns. Our University leadership is asking us for input and we need to take this opportunity to share. They are looking for permanent solutions and reductions. Please remind and encourage everyone to complete the upcoming online survey.

Comments and Announcements/Guests Input:

1. No comments or announcements were made. There were 0 guests present. There were 20 online in attendance.

Adjournment: Senator Hopkins motioned to adjourn the meeting and Senator D. Brown. seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Next Meeting: 9 a.m. Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 in BSC 310.

Submitted by Laura Gullett