



MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Date	July 14, 2020
Time	9:00 am
Location	BSC Board of Governors
Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 @ 9 am BSC 356	

Members Present: Ashley Brownfield (President-Elect), Katie Fields, Laura Gullett (Secretary), Christina Hamilton, Megan McCollough, Brian Moorhouse, Eli Moran, Mike Opfer (President), Shakira Rhoads (Parliamentarian), Teresa Shufflin

Member(s) Absent/Excused: Brenda Beasley, Kandee Behnke, Denice Brown, Melinda Brown, Stephanie Hopkins, Nick Reynolds,

Determination of Quorum: - Ten of sixteen members were present; quorum was not established. No new business or voting shall take place during this meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes: Meeting Minutes for June were not voted on and will be held until August meeting.

Administrative / Special Guest Comments:

President's Council: Representative Rob Yust shared that incentives for vaccinations are coming for both students and employees by providing proof via Med+Procter. The grand prize for employees is \$2,500. The Employee Appreciation Picnic will take place this year behind BSC on Aug. 5th. Menu will be brats, hamburgers and hot dogs. Representative Dr. Brad Hodson shared on funding and projects. Missouri Southern received \$800,000 in new core funding (3.7% increase for all higher education in MO). Our local legislator also secured an additional \$2 million for the core funding. We also received \$2.5 million for Taylor Performing Arts Center (TPAC) renovations to the structure of the building. Plans to start on TPAC should be by the end of the semester. The planned projects for the streets, parking lot, tunnel and Oval were delayed due to timelines requested in the project plan. We are currently are waiting on bids. The goal is that the streets and parking lots will be done by September and the Oval by December. Multi-factor Authentication is coming to campus. The Information Technology department will be giving updates to this prior to the end of August.

Faculty Senate: No representative was present. President Opfer gave report that Faculty Senate has not met and doesn't meet over the summer.

Student Senate: No representative was present. President Opfer gave report that Student Senate has not met and doesn't meet over the summer.

Staff Senate Committee Reports:

President Opfer called for committee reports.



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1. Communication Committee (Moorhouse)

Senator Moorhouse reported that they met on 7/7/21. They set a focus to communicate with the campus as a whole, sharing information regarding how Staff Senate works and benefits the campus. They discussed wanting to ease communication from Staff to Senate members both publicly and anonymously. They shared about having open forums and/or breakout sessions to be about to discuss items of concern with Staff Senate. Meetings will continue to be once a month; tentatively scheduled for the Monday prior to Staff Senate Meetings.

2. Community Service Committee (Gullett)

Committee has not met but Senator Gullett shared that she obtained the Angel Tree information from a previous committee chair and is working to get it sorted. Gullett will send a calendar invite soon to committee members.

3. Elections Committee (Brownfield/Rhoads)

Senator Rhoads shared that we are in the middle of Service Champ nominations and need submissions. She asked that each Senator nominate someone for this award. Nominations are due by 7/21/21. President-Elect Brownfield shared that we had a Staff Senator resign and Megan McCollough was next in line and has accepted her one-year term effective July 2021.

4. Executive Committee (Opfer)

President Opfer shared that they met with President's Cabinet. He used this time to share what items we, as a Senate, are hearing from Staff. He gave an update around the compensation subcommittee, as well as the employee appreciation picnic and the funding updates.

5. Governance Committee (Rhoads)

Senator Rhoads shared that with all of the great work that the past senate did with the bylaws, this committee will likely not need to meet this semester or will meet as needed.

6. Staff Welfare Committee (Shufflin)

Senator Shufflin shared that the committee met and voted to request a Staff Compensation Proposal from Business Affairs and Human Resources. They resulted that they create a plan for compensation long-term. Dr. Van Galen was in favor of the request made by the committee. President Opfer will send the email request to all Senators who can share it with Staff.

Campus Committee Reports

President Opfer called for committee reports.

1. COVID-19 Task Force (Opfer)

President Opfer reported that the last meeting was on 6/23/21. Missouri numbers are up; comparable to numbers around Thanksgiving. There will be a photo campaign themed around why people across campus got the vaccine. Opfer stated that a vaccine mandate on campus is not currently on the table, but reminded individuals to continue to social distance and use the Campus Clear app.



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2. **University Council** (Opfer)

President Opfer reported that Dr. Van Galen shared on the Campus Vibrancy calendar, which will include a calendar of all activities taking place on campus. Information about the campus improvement projects and their timelines were shared. The vaccination incentives were also shared but were subject to change; 2 people weekly will win \$250 Lion Bucks, Grand Prize winner will get \$2,500. Everyone will get 100 wellness points. There will be an announcement for how to upload your vaccination proof.

3. **Board of Governors**

President Opfer shared that Board of Governors did approve the deficit budgets but it did include the \$500,000 for employee compensation.

4. **Athletics Committee** (Shufflin)

Senate discussed the purpose of this committee. Senator Shufflin will be the chair. President Opfer will reach out to Faculty Senate president for guidance.

5. **Faculty Information Technology Committee** (Opfer)

President Opfer shared about the multi-factor authentication will take place soon.

6. **Insurance Committee** (Shufflin)

Senator Shufflin shared that the Insurance committee was faced with \$1 million plan funding increase primarily due to the number of specialty pharmacy claims. The enriched medical plan will see an increase in deductible. The HSA will see a modest increase also. Open Enrollment will also be shortened to a two-week period (Oct.18-31) rather than a whole month. The tiered systems will also be eliminated. There will also be opportunities to gain more information via emails, training videos and a Southern Summit session. Senator Shufflin's term on the insurance committee is ending but she is willing to do another year; finishing her Senate term. This cannot be voted on during the meeting due to a lack of quorum. This will need to be addressed in August's Senate meeting.

7. **Shared Sick Leave Committee** (Fields)

Senator Fields reported that the committee did not meet but she is going to find out the process for what happens when someone applies for shared sick leave.

8. **Diversity Committee** (D. Brown)

Senator Brown was not present.

9. **Empowering U Committee** (Opfer)

President Opfer reported that they have not met but the training committee is pushing to getting training for new hires



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Unfinished Business

Unfinished business cannot be conducted as there was not a quorum established for this meeting.

New Business

New Business can not be conducted as there was not a quorum established for this meeting.

Comments and Announcements/Guests Input: No comments or announcements were made.
There were 2 guests in attendance and 23 online in attendance.

Adjournment: Senator Moorhouse motioned to adjourn the meeting and Senator Shufflin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 am.

Next Meeting: 9 a.m. Wednesday, August 11, 2021 in BSC; Board of Governors.

Submitted by Laura Gullett