

Exempt Staff Council Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

Members in Attendance: Susan Lazenby (Chair), Anitra Barrett (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Smith, Alexa McClellan, Jordan Hicks, Mary Lee King, Kelly Griffin, Kat Mortensen, Sherry Marlow-Ormsby, Elizabeth Johnson

Others in Attendance: Nicole Gaines, Employee Relations Consultant; Logan Rader, HR Assistant

Call to Order: Susan Lazenby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Staff Senate Model (Susan Lazenby)

- **Administrative Preparation:** The Exempt Staff Council is in the planning phases of establishing a staff-wide representative group, and there is some work to be done in the future to implement this campuswide. In coordination with the Employee Relations Committee, meetings with both groups, Vice Chancellors Brent Goldberg and Bryan Johnson, UT System, the Employee Relations Advisory Board, and UTC Human Resources are underway, and an eventual meeting and proposal with the Chancellor will need to be held later when the staff senate model is more developed with campus stakeholders.
- **Elections:** To foster consistency in continuing toward establishing a staff-wide representative group, elections are being postponed to 2025.
 - o Mary Lee King made a motion to vote on the extension of ESC elections for one year to continue working on the development of a staff senate. Seconded by Elizabeth Smith.
 - Vote carries unanimously 10-0-0
 - Bylaws to be amended to reflect this change
- **Potential Staff Senate Meetings:** Eventual meetings in this new representative model would resemble current Faculty Senate meetings: members of the Executive Leadership Team would be expected to join each month's meeting, and the meetings would be longer and more fruitful to encapsulate both informative aspects as well as proactive work on behalf of all staff members across campus, with executive and administrative stakeholders in attendance. Working and representative subcommittees can be formed as needs are identified. For example, the needs of exempt staff may differ from those of non-exempt staff, so subcommittees could be incorporated to identify and address those differing needs.
- **Representatives and Alternates:** There have been significant shifts regarding the makeup of these representative groups (reorganization, retirements, etc.). Part of preparing for a staff senate model is to bolster how each group is defined and represented well, and this will be done in the coming weeks in collaboration with Human Resources. Included in this effort is an update to each group's contact lists due to individuals who have left or been recently hired.
- **Funding:** Vice Chancellor Brent Goldberg has indicated to the chairs that funding will be made available to serve future council work and efforts.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Susan Lazenby to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Lee King.

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.