LSU | Staff Senate

MEETING MINUTES
June 21, 2023

President Tammy Millican presided over the June 21, 2023, Staff Senate meeting held in the Walk-On's Restaurant at 3838 Burbank Drive, Baton Rouge, LA at 10:30 a.m.

Unclassified

Executive/Administrative/Managerial
P - Tammy Millican ('23)

Professional/Non-Faculty
P - Alvarez, Capri ('23)
P - Bates, Kelli ('23)
P - Campen, Ryan ('23)
A - Carney, Mo ('24)
A - Cummings, Ellen ('22)
P - Duplechain, Joshua ('24)
P - Gresham, Deanna ('23)
P - Guttner, Ginger ('23)
A - Hicks, Emmy ('24)
A - Jackson, Percy ('23)
P - Kennison, Jennifer ('25)
P - Lee, Quinneka ('24)
P - Miller, Cassaundra ('23)
A - Oster, Anthony ('24)
P - Phelps, Olivia ('23)
A - Rafati, Karina ('23)
A - Sansoni, Gerald ('23)
A - Shows, Haley, (23)
A - Slocum, Jenee ('23)
P - Smith, Henri ('24)
A - Trahan, Amy ('25)
A - Walker, Jason ('24)
A - Washington, Valori ('23)
A - Williams-Carter, Tyrslai ('24)
A - Wilson, Derek ('23)

Classified

Skilled Crafts
A- Constance, Taylor ('25)
P - Corbitt, Brent ('24)

Technical/Paraprofessional
P - Matkovic, Igor ('23)
A - Nehlig, Mark ('24)

Clerical/Secretarial
P - Salesneves, Sarah ('25)
P - Salvadras, Amber ('23)

Service/Maintenance
P - Robertson, Winkeyssa ('24)

A - Indicates Absent
P - Indicates Present
Pr - Indicates Proxy

GUESTS:

Tricia Cobb, Faculty Senate
Anissa Mimms, Human Resource Management
Amber Bonner, College of Engineering
Kevin Breaux, Graduate School
Dayton White, College of Business
Neely Martin-Whitaker, College of Coast & Environment
Bradley Waters, Parking & Transportation Services
Skylar Compton, School of Veterinary Medicine
Danielle Jeffcoat, Student Health Center
Casey Coughlin, Campus Federal Credit Union
Brian Ainsworth, Campus Federal Credit Union
Zacki Soliman, Campus Federal Credit Union
Celeste Smith, College of Human Sciences & Education
Margot Carroll, LSU Auxiliary Services
Judy Wornat, College of Engineering

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Tammy Millican at 10:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum with no proxy noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Olivia Phelps led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 17, 2023, Staff Senate Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Senator Deanna Gresham. The motion, seconded by Senator Sarah Salesneves, carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tammy Millican reviewed relevant meetings she attended.

- May 22 – attended a Kickoff meeting for the Search Advisory Committee for Chief of Campus Police/Security position

- May 23 - Met with Pregnancy & Parenting Committee to discuss the Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act & PUMP Act

- May 24 - met with President-Elect Duplechain and Member-at-Large Washington to discuss a communication plan for the Career Excellence Fund

- June 1 – attended the Final Staff Senate Mentoring Event held to discuss the pilot study and options for next year

- June 2 – attended the Chief of Police/Security applicant review meeting

- June 7 - attended the Staff Senate Executive Committee Meeting

- June 14 – attended the Council of Staff Advisors meeting

- June 15 – attended the Board of Supervisors meeting and present the Council of Staff Advisors June Report

- June 16 - attended the Chief of Police – First Round of Interviews

- June 14 – attended the Chief of Police – Second Round of Interviews

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Senate Budget

Treasurer Henri Smith will provide a written financial report for June to include in the July meeting packet for Senate review.

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition of Partnerships

President Millican would like to recognize some partnerships that happened this past year that truly made an impact for the LSU Staff Senate as an organization. The below were presented with a plaque that read: Given with sincere appreciation and gratitude for their generous support during 2022-2023.

- Gaines Foster who donated $14,000 towards the Staff Senate Fee Support Scholarship
- Campus Federal Credit Union for their overall support of LSU Staff Members
- Nothing Bundt Cakes for Monthly Birthday Bundtlets to celebrate Senators Birthdays
- LSU Auxiliary Services for their in-kind donations during staff events
- Mark Beiger named as Honorary Senator for his support during the LSU Strategic Planning

Recognition of Senators

President Tammy Millican recognized Senators for their Dedication and Service and for those who fulfilled their terms of office. Chairs, Co-Chairs, Committee Members, and Liaisons on Committees during this past year were also mentioned. Millican also presented the President's

Attendance Award to Senators who had perfect attendance to all the Staff Senate meetings for the year.

President Tammy Millican announced that the LSU Outstanding New Senator Award, chosen by the Staff Senate Executive Committee, in recognition of a new member of the LSU Staff Senate who has provided outstanding service to the Senate for the 2022-2023 Senate year was being presented to Ginger Guttner.

President Tammy Millican announced that the LSU Staff Senator Service Award, chosen by the Staff Senate Executive Committee, in recognition of an individual member of the LSU Staff Senate who provided outstanding service to the Senate for the 2022-2023 year, was being presented to Mo Carney, Deanna Gresham, and Jason Walker.

Introduction of Elected Senators

President Tammy Millican announced the newly elected Staff Senators who were chosen to serve on the LSU Staff Senate.

Unclassified Employee Group:

Amber Bonner with the College of Engineering
Anissa Mimms with Human Resource Management
Becca Robison with the Manship School of Mass Communications
Bradley Waters with Parking & Transportation
Danielle Jeffcoat with the Student Health Center
Dayton White with the E. J. Ourso College of Business
Deanna Gresham with Residential Life
Ginger Guttner with the School of Veterinary Medicine
Jace Owens with Facility Services
Jeannie Williamson with World Languages
Kevin Breaux with the Graduate School
Neely Martin-Whitaker with Oceanography & Coastal Sciences
Olivia Phelps with Human Resource Management
Robyn Canady with Mental Health Service
Skylar Compton with the School of Veterinary Medicine
Valori Washington with University College

Classified Employee Group:

Igor Matkovic with Facility Services
Celeste Smith with the College of Human Sciences & Education
Jerri Jensen with the College of Art & Design

President's Closing Address – Passing of the Gavel

"I'll be honest. In many ways, this year has crept by, but it's also flown by too. It feels like to me that we exited Covid changed in so many ways, both personally and professionally. In many

cases, the way we work has changed, and it often felt like we were relaunching and relearning so many things on campus. That includes Staff Senate.

It has been an honor, a privilege, and an incredible amount of fun to serve as Staff Senate President for a third and final term. I fell in love with our mission of advocacy, awareness, and appreciation after winning a Staff Senate scholarship and discovering this organization that exists as a bridge between administration and staff. The truth is that the most enjoyable part of being a Staff Senator is meeting other staff members and putting together all of the incredible things we accomplish because of the amazing talents and gifts in the room.

And in the midst of these efforts, you become friends and you experience all of the joys and challenges that life brings together. I look all around this room and I'm amazed at all that we've been through together-new babies, loss of family members, marriages, promotions, educational attainments, weather events, and HEPA filters. I'm grateful that I've been able to experience all of this with some of the best people in the world-many who are now dear friends for life.

Let me assure you that we had many victories this year, and there's certainly more to come…

Pay Raise
ORP Legislative Bills
Largest Staff Senate Scholarship Donation on Giving Day
Holiday on Campus
Flag Presentations
New Staff Receptions
Staff Appreciation Week
Launch of Newsletter & Website
Information on Campus Initiatives-Parking, Strategic Plan, etc.
Inclusion on Hiring Committees
Advocating for Staff Senate Benefits, Compensation, and Retirement Benefits
Establishment of Lactation Rooms & the Pregnancy & Parenting Committee
Holiday Door Decorating Contest expanding to include boxes with food for the LSU Food Pantry
Career Excellence Fund.

And yet there is one resolution we passed in 2022 that is near and dear to my heart that I hope Staff Senate will continue to pursue. I have spoken about it to every administrator and at every Board of Supervisors meeting, including the one last Thursday: Calling for the Review and Elimination of Fees for Staff Enrolled in Tuition Exemption.

I arrived on campus in 1997 with a high school diploma. I'd always wanted to attend college, but there was no TOPS program at that time and the cost was beyond what my mom could afford, so I started a career instead. Let me begin by telling you how appreciative I am of the tuition exemption program. It allowed me to earn a bachelor's degree from the Manship School in mass communication, a master's in public administration, and on August 11, I will receive my doctoral degree and be hooded. High school diploma to Dr. Tammy Millican, a first-gen graduate.

There's a point to me sharing this with you. It was hard financially. Not as much in the beginning when it was $200 for two classes, but as that cost began to increase in response to the change in the State funding formula for higher education, it became more and more difficult, especially with a young family and during a time when we weren't receiving pay raises, to afford classes.

The same struggle goes on today but at a much higher cost, so I hope Staff Senate continues this fight. A bill was passed during this legislative session that waives fees for all veterans who receive tuition benefits and I applaud that decision. It is my hope that as we now see that it can happen that it will happen for staff too.

Personally, this has been a great year for me. I celebrated 25 years at the university I love and finished my PhD. I had the opportunity to serve with you on Staff Senate and in a complete shocker I received the Kiwanis Club Distinguished Service Award.

I am so happy where we stand as a Staff Senate today. I truly believe we've earned the respect of those we serve, but there's more work to be done. Committees are where the magic happens, so my hope is that next year's Senators hit the ground running on initiatives and events. I hope that we continue to grow our relationship with the administration, Faculty Senate, and Student Government. I also hope Staff Appreciation Week this year blows the previous one out of the water, but none of this happens without your help. You've been elected to advocate, bring awareness, and show appreciation for your colleagues. Let's do that. Finally, I would like to show my appreciation for this incredibly hard-working group of Exec members.

Henri (Treasurer) - You are the perfect combination of financial leadership and fun. She shows up and works hard at everything we did this year, and I appreciate that so much.

Quinneka (Secretary) - You came to every meeting with the best ideas and thoughtful feedback AND you're adding two baby Staff Senators to our Senate this year. Congratulations and thank you for serving.

Valori (Member-at-Large) - You are a leader, period. Not only did you bring in issues, but you also developed solutions, and then implemented them. You are an incredible and always belong in a leadership role. I am proud to have served with you. AND you brought us the deliciousness of Bundt cakes. Thank you for everything.

Amber (Past-President) - I can't believe you are leaving Staff Senate. You have been such an amazing member of Staff Senate because you truly care. You were a wonderful President, official t-shirt guru, and promotional item miracle maker, and I'll miss you this year.

Josh (President-Elect) - I didn't really know Josh well prior to his election as President-Elect, but once I heard his speech, I wanted to know more. He created a wildly successful newsletter and is an incredible advocate for staff. I would not have survived this year without his humor and snarky texts. You will be an amazing President.

Melonie (Administrative Coordinator) - You hear me say this all the time, but you are the glue that holds all of this together. We've been on Staff Senate together since 2008, and you are a wealth of information and an integral part of what makes our efforts successful. I am so grateful for all that you've done this year. Thank you.

I'm incredibly excited to see all that Josh and his Executive Committee will accomplish this year, so let's get to it!

Thank you"

President Tammy Millican officially passed the gavel to President-Elect Joshua Duplechain.

President Recognition

President Joshua Duplechain recognized Past-President Tammy Millican for her Dedication and Service for participating in committees that she had served on this year and for fulfilling her term of office.

President Joshua Duplechain presented Past-President Tammy Millican with the President's Attendance Award for her perfect attendance at all Staff Senate meetings for the year.

President Joshua Duplechain also recognized Past-President Tammy Millican for her dedication and service to the LSU Community and the LSU Staff Senate, as LSU Staff Senate President 2022-2023, and thanked her for all of her work this past year. Millican received her President's Plaque.

Introduction of the 2023-2024 Executive Committee Officers

President Joshua Duplechain announced the 2023-2024 Staff Senate Executive Committee members:

President-Elect Olivia Phelps
Secretary Quinneka Lee
Treasurer Henri Smith
Member-at-Large Mo Carney
Past-President (Ex-Officio) Tammy Millican

Future Guest Speakers

The Executive Committee has identified some guest speakers for the year. If anyone has any suggestions, please send those to the Executive Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Orientation

President Joshua Duplechain announced that a New Member Orientation will be scheduled soon for New Members to attend.

Staff Senator Birthday

Staff Senator June Birthdays:

- Senator Deanna Gresham Lee celebrated her birthday on June 2.
- Senator Winkeyssa Robertson celebrated her birthday on June 6.
- Senator Anthony Oster celebrated his birthday on June 12.
- Newly Elected (returning) Senator Amber Bonner celebrated her birthday on June 15.
- Newly Elected Senator Bradley Waters celebrated his birthday on June 15.
- Senator Kelli Bates will celebrate her birthday on June 23.

Happy Birthday!

MOTION TO ADJOURN – With there being no more business, Senator Brent Corbitt made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Senator Capri Alvarez, carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Quinneka Lee, Secretary

QL/mm