

# Staff Senate

## Minutes

10/27/2021 | 3:00 PM | UC 307

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### Call to Order

VP Hannah Allen calls the meeting to order 3:01 PM

### Approval of Minutes

- Meeting: 09/22/2021

**Senator Fisher motions to approve**  
**Senator O'Brien seconds the motion**

### President's Corner

- Dr. Michael Licari

Dr. Licari shares the following with the group: The Covid -Back the Vax challenge is still on going, first drawing on Monday in the Plaza. The other half of the prizes will be given away in December. Cases continue to drop, and that's a really good thing. The masks and efforts would like to continue through the end of the semester, the state legislature just reconvinced on covid and totally designed to find ways to remove for anyone in the state to require masks or vaccines. 80 house bills all up for review to remove entity's ability to require covid preventative measures. These would directly affect the university. We are monitoring these bills to see how they impact the university. 60% of our revenue comes from the state. We are going to end up having to do what we are told, we are still meeting with the weekly taskforce, at the end of the day, the state is the one holding the cards.

Enrollment- We are in really good shape with applications and admitted students. We are more than 200% up since last year. Building the class of 2019, we are already ahead of where that class was at this point of admitted students. We are bouncing right back. The quality of the admitted students is good. Fall of 22 is less than 3% conditionally admitted. That represents a class that is much more academically ready for college. It improves our retention rates and graduation rates down the line.

Mission and vision and value statements- the drafts are getting kicked around the steering committee. Trying to make sure this is a very organic process. There will be 4 open forums for campus to engage and review and offer feedback Monday the 8th – 10 am , 9th- 10 am & 1 pm , 10th - 1 pm. You can register on the strategic plan website. This needs to be our strategic plan and your strategic plan.

### Are there any questions?

Senator Gaither asks an update on the Health Building. Dr. Licari answers they are doing soil samples to see if there are sink holes. He said the building isn't planning on opening until Fall 2024. When the construction starts, parking on that side of campus is going to

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be worse, just shooting it straight, no sugar coating. When that happens, we are going to deploy some intermediate solutions to reduce the impact, but there will be less spots. Sit tight on the plan, and we will talk about it then.

### **VP Allen will now share anonymous staff senate questions from the Google Form:**

When all the staff retired in March, why weren't we notified? Dr. Licari explains that most of the staff left and announcements and events and parties is up to the immediate supervisor of the staff leaving. Sometimes it is up to the employee and their wishes as well. Dr. Licari wanted to throw a party for McCartney, and she didn't want one, dead set on not having a big event.

Senator Dickens- said forty people retired and no one is notified, then suddenly they are gone and you have been working with them. Dr. Licari explains that is really up to the immediate supervisor as to how the handle the reshuffling.

Senator Shire- when the big change is happening and the check system is changing and no one was notified, and change is good but we are never notified or it trickled down and there are major changes that are happening that are not being told to us.

Dr. Licari didn't answer, VP Allen said she thinks that something did go out about that, and she would check with Benjie Harmon.

### **President's Report**

- Senator Engagement

VP Allen shows the senator shirts, and tells the we ordered polos for staff senate. We should have them by the next meeting.

Meet your senator event, approaching Christmas people are working hard and trying to make it to the holiday. We thought the best time to do our meet and greet would be in the spring semester to drum up some interest and get people more involved and get more people nominated. February meeting, invite all staff and let them know that we are here, maybe give out some refreshments.

Dr. Licari's inauguration on Nov. 5th we need four more volunteers for this event.

Now let's vote on the email signatures:

Email signatures-

Narrow down to one to be consistent.

Option1 - vote

Option 2- 6 votes

**Option 3- 13 votes**

Option 4- 5 votes

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Next let's discuss the help an elf program we supported 5 kids last year and raised \$500 dollars. We could hopefully adopt a family of 4-6. Does anyone want to be in charge of it and hosting a wrap party. Senator D'Alimonte volunteered for chair of the wrap party. Who else wants to be involved?

Senator D'Alimonte Chair, Senator Briones, Senator Conklin, Senator White, Senator Cheatham

### Treasurer's Report

- No Report (No Budget/Funds Spent)

### Old Business

- No Old Business

### New Business

- New Conference/Athletic Updates from AD Harrison-

It is the dawn of a new day in APSU Athletics, three new coaches in three sports, football, men and women's basketball. Premium areas for all our sports. New conference starting – July 1 2022, moving to the ASUN conference. What won't change is our standard and care for the student athlete, student 1st is big in the A-Sun. 3.2 GPA in the academic, we just won 5 GPA awards in the OVC. There are 10 million viewers for the A-Sun, where the OVC was 2 million. The A-Sun is in the top 6 of all conferences. Looking forward to the future. Neat partnership is sabretooth sports? Nashville Predators, they are going to run F&M Bank arena. This deal is the first of its kind. They are helping with corporate sponsorship, ticket sales, and marketing. APSU will have adverts in Bridgestone arena for every event, and the two new coaches for basketball are going to be waving towels during the preds game while our commercial plays.

Anonymous questions. Why are we moving to a harder conference if we can't win? APSU is going, one winning season is not enough, but we are much better program and we strive for excellence, and while I am here, we are not going to stay the same. The OVC has been great, it's not them, it's me. It's our time, it's our opportunity, we are going to get it because we want to be better.

Michael Dickens- Are there going to be any deals for faculty and staff for the predators deals? We will get a couple events a year that will be for faculty and staff, as well as if you're a n APSU

- Michael Kasitz- Back the Vax

Back the Vax

Senior administration to push vaccines by offering incentives. We were not the first to do this, but we will be the best to do this. If you showed proof, you got three entries. As

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of this morning about 1771 total people who have registered and 500 staff who have done it and 94% has shown their proof of vaccination. The prizes are not here yet due to shipping issues, or we will give them gift cards. You can win a parking spot until the end of this academic year. We are going to draw for those on Nov 1st. it will be in the location you want to be in. The sooner we get to heard immunity, the sooner we can get back to normal. 2000 tee shirts will be given away. 2 o clock on Nov. 1st.

### University Standing Committee Reports

#### Department/Division Updates

Senator Fisher handed out the new Emergency Action Plan. She made copies of this and brought to the meeting for everyone.

Melissa Johnson- BCM is going to have their Wednesday lunch for staff and faculty and students on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11am- 2pm.

Donna Conklin- Theater and Dance Spitfire Grill, runs tomorrow

Jessica D- COB will have their Legends of Business Speaker Series, with Larry Carroll, and then President of the Nashville Predators, Sean Henry.

Senator Gaither asks about Peaybay:

VP Allen talks about the peaybay auction and we hope we can get it started back up.

Senator Thompson- Student Success helped 80 students with their registration.

### Announcements

The next meeting will be possibly moved due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Stay tuned for an update on the new date.

### Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn at 4:00 pm**

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