

University Staff Senate Minutes

February 17, 2022, 11:00-1:00 p.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

Present

Laura Abing, Lauren Accola, Brigid Alba, Tina Aiello, Chris Bartolone, Yasi Blackmon, Kirsten Boeh, Coreen Bukowski, Jamie Busse, Wendy Butler, Sue Cirillo, Maria Cooper, Robin Cork, Deanna Davis, Cliona Draper, Melissa Econom, Molly Eldridge, Christine Fleming, Jyoti Gandha, Latrice Collins-Harris, Elizabeth Hollendoner, Calley Hostad, Amy Kaboskey, Maggie Klatt, Sherri Lex, Tina McNamara, Karina Mendoza, Laura Mercado Martin, Lori Montezon, Karen Nest, Kim Poehlman, Steven Robertson, Nicolle Skoien, Carol Trecek, Brian Troyer, Rae-Ann Vanek, Elizabeth Voltner, Chad Wheeler.

Chair Carol Trecek began the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Melissa Econom shared the reflection.

Regular business

Secretary's Request

January meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

No report.

Vice Chair's Report

Melissa Econom met with Lynn Mellantine of Human Resources.

- 10th annual Go Move challenge runs throughout February.
- Contact Melissa Econom if you have anything to share or questions for HR.

Chair's Report

Carol Trecek met with President Lovell.

- The university has exceeded its fundraising goal for this year.
- There are new initiatives on campus related to safety:
 - President's Task Force is headed by Chief Hudson and will have a Staff Senate representative.
 - MUPD is hiring more police officers.
 - Campus Safety is hiring more LIMO drivers.
 - Additional safety measures for buildings are being enacted.
 - Marquette is working with Milwaukee and community leaders to increase safety.
- University leadership is interested in ideas to improve campus culture. These can be shared via the USS Mailbox or sent to any USS representative.
- The Employee Engagement survey is open February 15 through March 1.
- Diversity Training and ITS training are ongoing.
- Congratulations to the Office of Mission and Ministry on a successful Mission Week.
- Reminder from Facilities Services:

- The custodial teams do not go into individual offices to remove trash.
- Not all offices receive mail every day; some are only once per week.
- If departments are purging items that are no longer needed, please contact Facilities ahead of time instead of leaving items in the hallways. If there is furniture to be removed, Facilities can assist but cannot do it all.

Subcommittee reports

No reports.

Other business:

- Give Marquette Day: Laura Abing and Molly Eldridge drafted a letter to be sent to all staff from Staff Senate.
- Community Campaign runs February 22 through March 8.
- Mission and Ministry offered a discernment exercise during Mission Week. They would like to offer the same experience to Staff Senate or other departments. This is a guided reflection to create an Examen Map.
- [Courtney McNeal](#) has started Marquette soccer group for faculty/staff/ students that will play at Rec Center or Norris Park in summer: Monday and Thursday, noon-1:00 p.m. If hosting in Center or Plex, enter w/ membership or pay \$3 for a pass. Open to anyone--beginner to advanced.
- The Presidential address is on March 3 at 3:00 p.m. Carol will ask if there are plans to stream this.

Special business

Guest speaker: Brian Troyer

[Please see the PowerPoint presentation.](#)

Questions:

- What are your thoughts on climbing rate of commuter students? Flexibility is now expected due to the flexibility required through and following the pandemic. Additionally, Marquette's focus on scholarship programs for local students (like the Urban Scholars Program) has increased enrollment from the local area thanks to tuition support, though for some students, a financial gap remains for room and board.
- What are recruitment strategies for international students? The Office of International Education coordinates the recruitment of international students and also offers tremendous ongoing student support for our international students. Undergraduate Admissions works very closely with OIE to coordinate everything from applicant file review to marketing and communication, to the development of transfer and dual enrollment pathway agreements.
- Is test-optional a short-termed or long-termed decision at MU? This decision was made in 2019 with a plan to review in three to five years. It should be re-evaluated on a regular basis. While open to an ongoing conversation, Admissions believes there would need to be a compelling reason to reverse the decision. At this point, approximately 1,800 (more than 70%) of US 4-year accredited institutions are test optional for the Fall 2022 enrollment cycle, and more than 1,400 have committed to extending that policy into Fall 2023 and beyond.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm and elected representatives went into closed session to select the winner of the 2022 Diversity and Inclusion Award.