



MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2022

President Amber Salvadras presided over the June 15, 2022, Staff Senate meeting held in 225 Peabody Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Unclassified

Executive/Administrative/Managerial

P - Tammy Millican ('23)

Professional/Non-Faculty

Pr - Alvarez, Capri ('23)

A - Braden, Laurie ('22)

P - Carney, Mo ('24)

A - Cummings, Ellen ('22)

P - Duplechain, Joshua ('24)

A - Garner, Karen ('22)

A - Garza, Jorge ('24)

A - Ghebreiyessus, Walta ('22)

A - Harb, Ryan ('23)

P - Herman, Catherine ('22)

A - Hicks, Emmy ('24)

P - Law, Shemeka ('24)

A - Lee, Quinneka ('24)

P - Levesque, Jonathan ('22)

P - Nickerson, John ('22)

P - Phelps, Olivia ('23)

A - Rafati, Karina ('22)

P - Sansoni, Gerald ('23)

P - Shaw, Linda ('24)

A - Shows, Haley ('23)

P - Slocum, Jenee ('23)

P - Smith, Henri ('24)

Pr - Stone, Megan ('23)

A - Trahan, Amy ('22)

A - Walker, Jason ('24)

P - Washington, Valori ('23)

A - Williams-Carter, Tyrslai ('24)

A - Wilson, Derek ('23)

A - Yan. Le ('22)

Classified

Skilled Crafts

A - Corbitt, Brent ('22)

Technical/Paraprofessional

P - Matkovic, Igor ('23)

P - Nehlig, Mark ('24)

Clerical/Secretarial

A - Salesneves, Sarah ('22)

P - Salvadras, Amber ('22)

P - Sparks, Donna ('24)

Service/Maintenance

A - Christopher Hopkins ('24)

P - Robertson, Winkeyssa ('24)

A – Indicates Absent

P – Indicates Present

Pr – Indicates Proxy

GUESTS:

Ernie Ballard, Office of Communications & University Relations

Jennifer Kennison, International Programs

Deanna Gresham, Residential Life

Margaret Broussard, School on Interior Design

First up, a meeting with President Tate on his first day at the university. Staff Senate was invited to meet with him. He saw and heard us on his first day! To me, that was a win.

In August, I had the honor of attending and being a part of the platform party for The Investiture of our new LSU President. This ceremony was a first for LSU. It was a great experience and well, I was excited to wear fancy LSU regalia. I have never worn that before. The next day, Hurricane Ida decided to pay Louisiana an unwelcome visit and left many of us without electricity for weeks, along with extensive damage to our homes and property. When it was brought to my attention that some of our staff members were having difficulties securing basic necessities such as food and supplies, my first question was WHAT CAN WE DO?? We sprang into action and reached out to everyone we could and did a food collection to help our staff who were in need during this time. It was heartwarming to see the LSU Staff community come together during this time of need.

This also started a conversation on how a fund can be created to assist staff in the aftermath of future natural disasters. This is Louisiana, we know it will happen again.

At this point in the year, Covid was still a hot topic on campus. Staff Senate Executive Committee was invited to have a conversation with President Tate, Provost Lee, and Donna Torres. The topic revolved around vaccine mandates for staff and the concerns that came with it. President Tate assured us that no one was going to be fired if they chose not to take the vaccine. It was very clear at the time that many staff were very upset, concerned, and worried about losing their jobs over this. I was very pleased that a fair compromise was made for employees who chose not to take the shots.

We hosted a fantastic Holiday on Campus this year, incredible thanks to the Dynamic Duo, Sarah and Quinneke for taking on the task of leading the Community Engagement Committee and planning for this event. It was well attended and was so nice to get out and feel normal again.

As 2021 ended, I was invited to be the Staff Senate representative to serve on the search committee for our next vice president and provost. Serving on that committee was a privilege for me and I was proud to be a staff representative on this very important committee. It was a huge undertaking, and I cannot begin to count the hours that went into this search. We spent 2 solid days interviewing 12 candidates and narrowed it down to the final four. As a committee, we knew that we did a top-notch job with the chosen candidates. Very excited to welcome Dr. Roy Haggarty to campus and to work with him in the coming year.

As Staff Senate President I was also invited to represent staff at President Tate's Values and

Also to develop a draft vision statement. Once it is complete, I will be happy to share it with you all.

Soon after, I was invited to be a member of the Strategic Planning Flagship Integration Committee – this committee is responsible for guiding the overall vision and strategy of the plan and ensuring the priorities are coordinated, unified, and synchronized.

In addition, we had so many informative guest speakers, great discussions and we got things done. We started out the year with Jane Verret, CEO of Campus Federal, Clay Jones, CHRO, Matt Lee Interim Provost, Bart Thompson Chief of Police and ended this year with an engaging and insightful conversation with President Tate.

I cannot leave out Brian Favela, Director of Parking and Transportation. Special thanks to him, not only for being a guest speaker but also for being available and answering our many questions revolving around parking and doing what he could to alleviate some of the problems. Additional thanks and shout out to Matt Lee, I am so appreciative of his support of Staff Senate. He showed up to our events any chance he could. He was happy to support us.

2 things I was very passionate about this year were the Faculty and Staff Career Excellence Enrichment Fund and PS 63 –

No, it was because they wanted to give me a gift. While the gift was amazing, it was the card that was included that really got me. It read: We are as proud of your service as Staff Senate President! You make LSU a better place.

I truly have enjoyed everything about being President and serving on Staff Senate, most of all,

Not to mention how many hours did we spend recreating the new senator orientation slideshow? Too many! I know! I wanted it to be perfect and you were a huge part of making it perfect. I am thankful for you for all that you have done for me and have appreciated your input over this year. Most of all, I forever value our friendship.

Jonathan (Thundercat Levesque)

It has been so rewarding to serve on the Executive Committee with you for the past three years. I learned so much from you and I really hope that I made you proud as I followed in your footsteps. You led us through the height of the pandemic with so much grace, spoke up for staff and did an amazing job as our President, that I could only hope to be half as good as you. I really tried to share the spotlight with you whenever I could this year, because I know there were things we could not do during your year and wanted you to have those experiences. When you gave your closing speech last year you said you were placing it in the hands of someone destined for greatness. I hope I proved you right there!

Catherine

1/3 of my SheWolf Pack! It has been a joy working with you, getting to know you and most of all, having you as my friend. The amount of patience you have with me and my many phone calls and texts over the year should win you an award! How many times did you answer the phone and here me say "Oh my gosh I have to tell you something" or "ok... I have a question" You have been an incredible support to me and I am forever grateful. Don't worry, just because you are no longer on Senate, you will still be hearing from me! I will always be here for you if ever need.

Tammy

The final 1/3 of my SheWolf Pack. I don't even know where to start. When I met you 6 years ago, I never would have thought that we would become such good friends and that I would have someone so supportive in my life. I have learned so much from you. I will admit, at the beginning of my presidency, I was worried that I would be in the shadows of you knowing that you have been in this position before. That was not the case though! Rarely did a day go by that we did not speak to each other. You guided me through this year with so much support. You were my number 1 cheerleader. I learned so much and gained so much more of the institutional knowledge. I am so forever grateful for you, your support and friendship. I promise I will be right next to you supporting you during your Presidency. I've got your back. In my 17 years at LSU, this past year has been the most challenging, educational and most of all, rewarding experience for me. I cannot thank you all enough for your support and entrusting me to do this job. It has been a joy serving as your leader this year. In closing, as I pass the Presidency on to Tammy Millican, I leave you one final nugget of wisdom also from a 1980s movie – Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, " Be Excellent To Each Other."

Tammy, it's all yours...."

President Amber Salvadras officially passed the gavel to President-Elect Tammy Millican.

President's Plaque

President-Elect Tammy Millican recognized President Amber Salvadras for her Dedication and Service for participating in committees that she had served on this year.

President-Elect Tammy Millican presented President Amber Salvadras with the President's Attendance Award for her perfect attendance at all Staff Senate meetings for the year.

President-Elect Tammy Millican also recognized President Amber Salvadras for her dedication and service to the LSU Community and the LSU Staff Senate, as LSU Staff Senate President 2021-2022, and thanked her for all of her work this past year. Salvadras received her President's Plaque.

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:

Ernie Ballard-Office of Communications & University Relations
Amy Trahan-Graduate School
Jonathan Levesque-Cox Communications Academic Center for Student Athletes
Ellen Cummings-School of Kinesiology
Jennifer Kennison-International Programs
Tiffany George-Department of Geology and Geophysics

Classified Employee Group:

Margaret Broussard-School of Interior Design
Sarah Salesneves-College of Art and Design
Taylor Constance-Facility Services
Brent Corbitt-Facility Services

Introduction of the 2022-2023 Executive Committee Officers

President Tammy Millican announced the 2022-2023 Staff Senate Executive Committee members:

President-Elect Joshua Duplechain
Secretary Quinneke Lee
Treasurer Henri Smith
Member-at-Large Valori Washington
Past-President (Ex-Officio) Amber Salvadras

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Orientation

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

President Tammy Millican also announced that the Pregnancy and Parenting Committee is looking for males interested in serving on the committee. If you are interested please let her know.

Member-at-Large Valori Washington announced that there will be a Trauma-Informed training opportunity to help employees provide a supportive approach in helping others. The training is scheduled on Friday, June 17. She will send the registration link to the Staff Senate office to share with the full Senate.

Staff Senator Birthday

Staff Senator June Birthdays