

LSU | Staff Senate

MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2023

President Joshua Duplechain presided over the November 15, 2023; Staff Senate meeting held in the Event Room at Barnes & Noble at LSU at 10:30 a.m.

Unclassified

Executive/Administrative/Managerial

P - Tammy Millican ('24)

Professional/Non-Faculty

P - Bonner, Amber ('26)

P - Breaux, Kevin ('25)

P - Campen, Ryan ('24)

P - Canady, Robyn ('26)

P - Carney, Mo ('24)

P - Compton, Skylar ('26)

P - Duplechain, Joshua ('24)

P - Ferguson, Amanda ('24)

P - Gresham, Deanna ('24)

P - Guttner, Ginger ('25)

P - Hicks, Emmy ('24)

Pr - Jeffcoat, Danielle ('26)

P - Kennison, Jennifer ('25)

P - Lee, Quinneka ('24)

P - Martin-Whitaker, Neely ('25)

P - Miller, Cassandra ('24)

Pr - Mimms, Anissa ('26)

P - Oster, Anthony ('24)

P - Owens, Jace ('26)

P - Phelps, Olivia ('26)

A - Rafati, Karina ('24)

A - Robison, Becca ('26)

P - Roser, Kimberly ('25)

P - Smith, Henri ('24)

P - Trahan, Amy ('25)

P - Washington, Valori ('26)

A - Waters, Bradley ('26)

P - White, Dayton ('25)

P - Williams, Amberlon ('24)

A - Williams-Carter, Tyrslai ('24)

P - Williamson, Jeannie ('26)

Classified

Skilled Crafts

A - Constance, Taylor ('25)

P - Corbitt, Brent ('24)

Technical/Paraprofessional

P - Matkovic, Igor ('26)

A - Nehlig, Mark ('24)

Clerical/Secretarial

P - Jensen, Jerri ('26)

P - Smith, Celeste ('26)

Service/Maintenance

A - Robertson, Winkeyssa ('24)

P - Indicates Present

Pr - Indicates Proxy

A - Indicates Absent

GUESTS:

Tricia Cobb, LSU Faculty Senate
Casey Coughlin, Campus Federal Credit Union
Roxane Berthelot, Campus Federal Credit Union
Zacki Soliman, Campus Federal Credit Union

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joshua Duplechain at 10:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum with two proxies noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Jace Owens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 18, 2023, Staff Senate Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Treasurer Henri Smith. The motion, seconded by Senator Deanna Gresham, carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Joshua Duplechain reviewed relevant meetings in which he attended.

- October 20 – attended the Board of Supervisors Meeting to give the Council of Staff Advisors Report
- November 1 – attended the Executive Committee meeting in preparation for the November General Meeting
- President Duplechain met with Inessa Bazayev, Faculty Senate President, Kaylee Aulds, Interim Director with Parking and Transportation, and Michael Antoine, Associate Vice President for Campus Safety, Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response which was focused on campus safety and updates were mentioned.
- President Duplechain attended the University Budget Meeting – some updates were provided.

President Duplechain shared that the Staff Senate Newsletter November Issue had a 91% Open Rate and a 90% Click through Rate which means everyone is reading through the Newsletter. It really has helped with volunteer recruitment for Holiday on Campus and with nominations for the Staff Stripes Award.

COMMITTEES

Education and Professional Development

Treasurer Henri Smith announced that the committee met and discussed the application for the Professional Development Fund. Smith will be reaching out to the Communications Committee to discuss next steps on how to get the word out on campus. There was mention of releasing for applications in January 2024. There would also be a link for applications on the Staff Senate Website.

Staff Appreciation & Events

Member-at-Large Mo Carney reported that the committee to discuss some upcoming events. Secretary Quinneke Lee has got the ball rolling with regards to the food, drinks, and volunteers. There are still some volunteer slots that need to be filled for Holiday on Campus, which is scheduled on Tuesday, November 28, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The committee is also asking for donations from departments for door prizes to be given out during the event. Secretary Quinneke Lee is also working on additional volunteers as well. Melonie Milton, Staff Senate Administrative Coordinator needs Senators to help fill goodie bags with candy before the Thanksgiving Break. Please let her know if you are available. Milton also provided an update on door prizes, entertainment, and last-minute items.

The annual Holiday Decorating Contest theme this year is a Holiday Movie Marathon. The entry deadline is December 8, and judging will take place on December 13, 2023

Entries can decorate a Bulletin Board, Door or Box or Boxes of their choice and fill it with non-perishable food items to be donated to the LSU Food Pantry. There is no entry fee. Decorations will be judged on creativity and appearance. First and second place ribbons and one "Best in Show" will be awarded. There will also be an Honorable Mention awarded for the most individual food items donated.

Staff Benefits and Policy

Senator Emmy Hicks announced that the committee has set-up some working groups to work on this year's initiatives. One of which is the Staff Stripes Award that will be promoted in the next Newsletter.

President Duplechain announced that he received an email from a staff member who is having some issues with a professor with regards to excused absences from class due to work obligations. The policy is being reviewed for clarification or amendments, if needed.

Civil Service

Senator Celeste Smith announced that the Civil Service written report was included in the November Meeting Packet. There is a hiring framework being presented that will replace the pre-employment screening.

LGBTQ+ Caucus

Senator Ryan Campen announced that the Caucus is selling t-shirts through Bonfire as a fundraiser. He can provide the link to order for those interested in purchasing. There is 6 days left to order. The cost is \$24.99, and the funds help the caucus.

President Duplechain also mentioned an issue with fertility treatment offered by LSU First for same sex couples, transgender individuals, and single individuals who are looking to start a family. This is a legislative issue that LSU may not be able to cover due to how the laws are written.

TRSL

Senator Anthony Oster announced that there was a written report that was included in the November Meeting Packet, but he hopes to have more information in the spring.

University High Risk Travel

There was a written report that was included in the November Meeting Packet.

Disability Caucus

Senator Cassaundra Miller announced that they are partnering with the LGBTQ+ Caucus regarding gender affirming mental healthcare providers through LSU First. They are also looking for a Communications Coordinator. If anyone knows of someone who would like to get involved with the Disability Caucus. They are working with LSU Police on ways of making the emergency training more available for everyone. They are also looking into fundraising efforts and to get a Foundation account. The Disability Caucus meets the second Wednesday of every month from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. for those who are interested in attending.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Senate Budget

Treasurer Henri Smith provided a written financial report for November that was included in the meeting packet for Senate review.

Senator Portraits

President Duplechain is still scheduling professional headshots with the College of Engineering. Please reach out to him to schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

December Meeting

The Executive Committee would like to hold a Holiday Luncheon after the December Meeting. Please sign-up to bring a dish once the list is circulated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Senator Birthday

Staff Senator November Birthday:

- Senator Jerri Jensen celebrated her birthday on November 5.
- Senator Becca Robison celebrated her birthday on November 5.
- Senator Amber Williams will celebrate her birthday on November 17.
- Senator Anissa Mimms will celebrate her birthday on November 30.

Happy Birthday!

The new Employee Assistance Program was discussed with regards to the mental health portion. The Staff Senate plans to discuss further.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – With there being no more business, Treasurer Henri Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Secretary Quinneka Lee, carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Quinneka Lee, Secretary

QL/mm