

Staff Employee Advocacy Council

Regular Council Meeting: June 12, 2024

Agenda

Attendance: See "2023–2024 Attendance" spreadsheet

Excused: Tayler Dove, Dina Mueller, Dan Haynes, Brett Calland

- A. Call to Order - Chloe Kiser at 2:30 PM
- B. **GUEST SPEAKER: Bharath Ganesh Babu (Faculty Senate Chair) at 2:30 PM**
 - a. Bharath (Chair until 2025)
 - b. History
 - i. Shared governance
 - ii. Increasing professionalization (expertise)
 - c. Tenure = academic freedom
 - d. Faculty/staff vision statement (in Faculty Handbook)
 - e. Faculty Senate - 20 faculty members has jurisdiction over academic affairs
- Principal advisor to the President; authority to rescind or modify all actions of UC
 - f. Meet every third Wednesday of month + special meetings
 - g. Exec Committee has 5 members (includes 1 staff member from Office of the Registrar for secretary role)
- C. Approval of Minutes from [May Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Mike Jacob makes a motion to approve
 - b. Michael Fenton seconds motion
 - c. All in favor - Approved?
 - i. We approved!
- D. Executive Committee Report
 - a. Starting Budget: \$3,493.57
 - i. Expenses since the last meeting:
 - 1. Book Fair \$675.54
 - 2. Food Truck Day \$770.00
 - 3. Staff Recognition \$44.79
 - b. Remaining Budget: \$2,003.24
- E. Administrative Meeting Report
 - a. Meeting with President Padilla and Rebekah this morning (6/12)
 - i. Staff terminations will take place by the end of the month; future cuts are not off the table

- ii. Program discontinuance to Pres. Padilla then BOD end of July
- iii. Filed petition to sell artwork
- iv. Valpo acquired Partner Solutions and want to expand to NWI
- v. Enrollment is down; hope to have 550 freshmen

F. Chief of Staff - Rebekah Arevalo

- a. Not present

G. External Committee Reports

- a. University Council — Chloe Kiser

- i. Next UC meeting is next AY

- b. Investment Oversight — Justin Hunt

- i. We met on June 5th for the quarterly report.
- ii. Very short meeting, no TIAA rep available
- iii. Committee composition - In need of Faculty Senate member
- iv. Advisor RFP's in process
- v. Market update/Core Fund review
- vi. SS/Medicare seminar fall '24 - time/day/marketing

- c. Fringe Benefits — Natalie Muskin-Press

- i. None at this time

H. Internal Subcommittee Reports

- a. Bylaws — Justin Hunt / Sue Kukurugya

- i. We have received written confirmation from Rebekah and Darron Farha. Our bylaws are approved!
- ii. We will form a small ad hoc committee to work on the transition from SEAC to Staff Council.

- b. Communications — Justin Hunt

- i. There will be no newsletter for July. The first newsletter of the academic year will be August, under the new communications subcommittee.

- c. New Employee Welcome — Chloe Kiser

- i. We received a T-shirt donation from marketing for new employee welcome bags!
- ii. We will personally invite new employees to the upcoming ice cream social.

- d. Representation — Jennifer Zatarski

- i. Thanks to our outgoing members! (a note from Chloe)

- e. Staff Events — Emily Breitung / Julie Vick

- i. Final event of the fiscal year - Ice Cream Social on Thursday, June 20 2:30-4:00 in Duesenberg Welcome Center. Valpo Velvet ice cream sundaes and floats with all the toppings!
 - ii. We encourage everyone to send their suggestions/ideas for next year's events to seac.feedback@valpo.edu.
 - f. Staff Development — Jennifer Zatarski / Michelle Soller
 - i. Trial group for Excel certification is in progress
 - ii. Discussed what ideas/events worked well this year in anticipation of passing information along to next year's committee
 - iii. Approved one mini-grant
 - iv. Tabled one mini-grant for next fiscal year due to August start date of course
 - g. Staff Recognition — Carolyn Simpson
 - i. May 2024 Employee of the Month: Bob Bird
 - ii. Presentation
 - 1. When: Wednesday, June 26 at 10:15 AM
 - 2. Where: FM Maintenance Building
- I. Old Business
 - a. Upcoming guest speakers
 - i. Suggestions: Advancement (VUCAN included; maybe Kelly Anthony), Student Life, new AD, OIP
- J. New Business
 - a. DISCUSS AS GROUP
 - i. Topic of the day: How can the Faculty Senate and SEAC/Staff Council work together?
 - 1. Exec committees meet monthly
 - 2. Faculty/Staff Mixer (St. T sponsor)
 - 3. Share concerns with faculty to share recommendations with administration
 - a. Share a list of faculty committee names with staff
 - 4. Education about what staff do
 - 5. Faculty/staff liaison ad-hoc committee
 - b. July retreat will take place July 17th from 12-4 PM. We'll have a catered lunch! Please RSVP to Chloe's calendar invite. This will be our only July meeting.
 - c. Chair & Vice Chair Elections
 - i. Chair nominees: **Chloe Kiser**, Carolyn Simpson, Natalie Muskin-Press, Dan Haynes
 - ii. Vice Chair nominees: ~~Chloe Kiser~~, Carolyn Simpson, Natalie Muskin-Press, Dan Haynes, **Janneal Gifford**, Andrew Knox, Jessica Cavaiani

K. Announcements

a. Department announcements?

i. Campus Rec and Wellbeing

1. Move Through Summer has started, and there will be events to attend throughout the program. The next event is June 27th at 12:00 in Loke Hall. Learn about our portable indoor Labyrinth and how to engage in Mindful Walking. There will also be a workshop on July 10th at 11:00 am with a Life Coach located in Valpo who is also on our discount card plan
2. HR Performance Evaluation start July 1st
3. Hops for Hospice at Expo Center (June 22nd) \$50/ticket
<https://hopsforhospice.org/> AYCE

L. Adjournment

a. Motion: Janneal Gifford

b. Second: Natalie Muskin-Press

c. All in favor -

i. Adjournment: At 4:07 PM