



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

January 19, 2022 10:00 am Library Conference Room 622/Zoom

Attendees	Senators: James Beinkemper, Mallory Benedetto, Benji Buffington, Mystee Burrell, Fernando Cordova, Therese Filhiol-Secretary, Andrew Hardee-Parliamentarian, Joanna Hunter, Robyn Jordan, Meghan Olinger-Vice President/President Elect, Melissa Rhodes-President, Allison Thompson-Past President, Nicole Walker, Sara Webb, Hope Young	
	Visitors: Tammy Anderson, Steven Burnside, Kelli Cole, Shane Dykes, Lauren Fee SGA President, Jessica Griggs, Jessica Hattaway, Mark Labude, Sabrina McClain, Dana Mejia, Kelly Moravek, Tommie Nelson, Jamie Norris, Ashley Taylor, Debbie Upshaw	
Excused/Absent	Greg Andrews, Kristal Anzalone, Jimmy Waller	Meagan Morris
Call to Order	January 2022 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President-elect Olinger Roll taken by Secretary Filhiol and Parliamentarian Hardee Visitors welcomed by President-elect Olinger	
Approval of Minutes	Motion was made by Senator Hunter to approve the Minutes of the December 2021 meeting. Seconded by Senator Young.	
Guest Speakers	<p>TRiO Programs Mystee Burrell, Jessica Hattaway, Tommie Nelson, Tammy Anderson, Debbie Upshaw</p> <p>There are three TRiO programs: Educational Talent Search (ETS), Student Support Services (SSS), and Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), which are all grant-funded. ETS works with high school students to encourage them to graduate from high school and enroll in college. The students are followed for six years while in college to see if they complete their degree in that time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ETS program provides workshops for students starting in 8th grade and going through college, all in the effort to improve their academic success. CCAMPIS is a childcare program that gives vouchers to students who are parents to help them pay for child care while they are in school. SSS is focused on first-generation college students (those whose parents did not attend college) to provide help navigating campus life and resources in order to be successful. • The SSS program serves 18 schools in three parishes (Madison, Richland, and Ouachita) as well as Monroe City Schools. They identify their students starting in 8th grade and follow them through their college years. There are federal guidelines on which students are eligible, and eligibility is based on either first-generation status, income level, or disability. About 96% of the 140 students in ULM’s program are first-generation. The program provides career, academic, social, and financial support services. The most appreciated part of the support for students is that they have someone on campus who is vested in their outcomes. There is also a peer mentoring program where first-time freshmen are paired with an older student in the program. There are peer tutors, tours of graduate schools, and financial wellness workshops. There is a social component that includes game nights, bowling, and other events to encourage relationships among peers. Wings Camp takes place over the summer right before the start of the Fall semester. By allowing students to move into their dorm early, the camp helps them to adjust to college life. Foundation scholarships are extremely helpful for TRiO program students. Statistics must be reported periodically to demonstrate that the programs are meeting their objectives. TRiO has been able to work with students on their issues with COVID that include emotional difficulties due to loss of family members and academic loss due to the stress of the pandemic, and many other issues. • The CCAMPIS grant is up for renewal, and that is being prepared now. Student eligibility for CCAMPIS is based on financial aid status and GPA (2.0 and above). In addition to vouchers for child care expense, CCAMPIS also provides workshops online that address child care issues, stress management, financial literacy, time management, etc. There are also family events to bring people together in person. Students are required to attend at least one meeting with CCAMPIS advisors as well as one financial literacy workshop and one parenting workshop. At the start of the program, there is an orientation to let students know what services are here and that come from the State. CCAMPIS can only provide \$1,000.00 per semester in childcare assistance, so it is beneficial for the students to also 	

apply for State funds. Online students are also eligible for CCAMPIS benefits.

Q: Are SSS students former ETS students? **A:** They are both but mostly ETS students.

Q: Does first-generation include people with an older sibling who went to college? **A:** Yes, because it's based on the parents' college status.

Q: Are there other organizations that cover parishes our program doesn't cover? **A:** No, not a Talent Search. The schools we serve are specified in the grant.

Q: Is TriO unique to ULM? **A:** No, the programs in TriO are federally funded through grants in schools all over the country. ULM's CCAMPIS program was the first to be funded in Louisiana.

Q: What happens if a student changes schools to one that has no program? **A:** They will no longer receive services, since the grant is school-specific.

Q: What happens when a student falls below the required GPA? **A:** The situation is reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see if the GPA can be brought back up and the student retained.

Shane Dykes, Safety Officer – COVID status update

The ULM COVID page has been updated with all changes to the policies now in effect. CDC went from a 10-day to a 5-day quarantine; that is the biggest change. The National Guard is still on campus with testing and vaccines. There are still some \$100.00 gift cards available for first-time vaccination recipients. There are free rapid tests (four per household) available online from the US government. ULM will accept the results of one of those tests if it is positive. Currently, the number of positive cases among students is the highest it has yet been. All the numbers of cases are online at the [Louisiana Department of Health](#). More masks have been ordered and will be distributed to employees. There is new signage to let people know that masks are required indoors on campus.

Q: At what point is it determined that an entire office has been exposed? **A:** The key factor is the amount of close contact with an exposed or infected person.

Q: How do we charge our time on quarantine? **A:** The COVID leave is no longer available, so the employee will have to charge it to sick leave. Many people are able to work from home to avoid using sick leave, but that is a supervisor decision.

Q: Was the COVID sick leave state funded or federally funded? **A:** It started out as federal, but last year it came from the State. The UL System gives us guidelines for our COVID policies, so there may be more information there about that question.

Q: Will the test on campus be used to allow people to return to work, or will people have to go to a doctor to get tested? **A:** ULM would like everyone to use the testing provided by the National Guard in order to get cleared to return to work.

Q: Can employees bring their families to get tested by the National Guard? **A:** Yes, bring them.

Q: Is there better signage to find the National Guard in the building? **A:** Signs go up, but people who are having events tend to take them down. It is an ongoing effort. Lauren Fee, SGA President, volunteered to get students to keep the signs posted.

Q: Affinity Clinic on campus does testing, but is it free to everyone? **A:** It is for students, but not necessarily for everyone. They do not treat children.

Q: What are the hours for the National Guard? **A:** Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; Friday 8:00 am – 11:30 am.

Reports of Committees

Communications – Secretary Filhiol will be the next Senator featured in “Meet the Senator” on our Facebook page. The next “Spotlight on Staff” person is yet to be determined. There is some movement on the credentials designation being included in the contact information that is obtained through employee searches in the ULM website.

Handbook – No report.

Constitution & Bylaws – Elections will occur in a few months. Recommend reviewing the documents for procedures to be prepared for the election.

Elections – Committee is preparing for upcoming Elections. Will make efforts to increase participation.

Welfare – No report.

Unfinished Business

Updates: Staff Senate shirts have finally arrived and are available for pick up.

New Business

Baseball facility is completed. Everyone is encouraged to check it out.

Athletics, assisted by SGA, CAB, and other Student Engagement groups, is working on the Mardi Gras float for the Monroe parade on February 19.

Adjournment

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Benedetto and seconded by Senator Buffington. The next meeting will be February 16, 2022 at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622. Guests may attend via Zoom.