

University Staff Senate

February 21, 2023

Via TEAMS only

MINUTES

Present: J. Almquist, J. Azinger, E. Cochrane, A. Dempsey-Fischer, P. Dixon, G. Dukes, C. Fitzpatrick, P. Geraci, S. Kennedy, T. Nation, K. Premeau, L. Ramsey, P. Reilly, R. Sauer, K. Valerius, M. Vallejo, R. Wahl, A.J. Williams, S. Wirka

Absent: K. Harris, G. Henion, C. Kremer, C. Parks, P. Smith, T. Steffan, C. Warneke, W. Wendt, L. Wiczorek

- I. Call to Order-10:03 a.m.
- II. Approval of minutes for January 17, 2023-The minutes were approved as submitted via autoconsent.
- III. Chair update-Chair Dukes updated the Senate
 - Chancellor Mone was unable to attend today's meeting.
 - Stan Yasaitis, former Chair, is retiring as of February 28th. The Chancellor and the Committee would like to recognize his important contributions to the University Staff and UWM over his career. Chair Dukes has asked the Senate for their ideas on recognizing S. Yasaitis and his accomplishments. Please send to Chair Dukes and she will work out what will be done to recognize him.
- IV. Elections update-L. Eastman updated the committee on the Elections. Preference Forms have gone out to University Staff. Reminders are being sent weekly until February 28. The Preference Form will determine the ballot and committee interest database.
- V. Awards Announcement-L. Eastman updated the committee on the Awards call. The calls have been sent to campus. Reminders are sent out weekly until the nominations close on February 28th. The committee will meet March 1 to discuss.
- VI. University Staffing levels on campus-P. Geraci asked the Senate if they had noticed difficulty with staffing with custodial positions on Campus. The Senate discussed. While Budget is a factor for some areas. Hiring is also an issue as UWM has not been able to hire and retain candidates. Recently starting pay has been increased for Custodial staff but it still is not attracting candidates. The Senate will continue to keep an eye on this area as it seems to be an issue across all of the campuses. G. Dukes will also discuss with the Chancellor at her regular meetings to see if there are other areas that the Senate can help.
- VII. Mental Health Options since WEA departure- There have been many issues as new health providers have taken over for WEA Health. Particularly with mental health options for people in SE Wisconsin. If members have had issues, they should contact Chair Dukes. She is in contact with Madison to see what options and solutions will be available.

VIII. Committee/Member Reports 10:55 a.m.

- US Nominations met and forwarded J. Almquist to the Chancellor's office to be appointed to the LGBTQ committee.
- US Nominations did support G. Henion to be a replacement on the School of Freshwater Sciences committee however, he was not chosen as the committee is almost done with their work. They will be meeting March 17 to discuss the Spring elections.

IX. New/Other Business-S. Wirka attended and volunteered at the Length of Service Awards. It was great to meet many of her fellow University Staff Members. Would we be able to make a get together for University Staff members? While a casual get together is not always possible, due to Open Meetings rules, L. Eastman will look into getting a room for the May or June meeting to meet in person so that members can come and meet everyone. The June Meeting is where everyone, new members and members leaving the committee are invited so this would be an great opportunity to socialize as well as conduct business. L. Eastman will look for a larger room on behalf of the Senate. Attendance would be optional as some Senators do need to attend virtually due to their locations and their work schedules.

X. Adjournment-11:08 a.m.

Senate website: <https://uwm.edu/secu/us/university-staff-senate/>