

LSU | Staff Senate

MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2022

President Amber Salvadras presided over the May 18, 2021, Staff Senate meeting held in the Lawton Room in LSU Tiger Stadium at 10:30 a.m.

Unclassified

Executive/Administrative/Managerial

P - Tammy Millican ('23)

Professional/Non-Faculty

P - Alvarez, Capri ('23)

A - Braden, Laurie ('22)

P - Carney, Mo ('24)

P - Cummings, Ellen ('22)

P - Duplechain, Joshua ('24)

A - Garner, Karen ('22)

P - Garza, Jorge ('24)

P - Ghebreiyessus, Walta ('22)

A - Harb, Ryan ('23)

P - Herman, Catherine ('22)

P - Hicks, Emmy ('24)

A - Law, Shemeka ('24)

P - 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)

P - Stone, Megan ('23)

P - Trahan, Amy ('22)

A - Walker, Jason ('24)

P - Washington, Valori ('23)

P - Williams-Carter, Tyrslai ('24)

P - 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

P - Salesneves, Sarah ('22)

P - Salvadras, Amber ('22)

Pr - Sparks, Donna ('24)

Service/Maintenance

P - Christopher Hopkins ('24)

A - Robertson, Winkyessa ('24)

A – Indicates Absent

P – Indicates Present

Pr – Indicates Proxy

GUESTS:

William F. Tate, IV, LSU President
Tonya Johnson, LSU Volleyball Head Coach
Roxane Berthelot, Campus Federal Credit Union
Casey Coughlin, Campus Federal Credit Union

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Amber Salvadras at 10:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum with one proxy noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Amber Salvadras led the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST SPEAKER – WILLIAM F. TATE, IV, LSU PRESIDENT

President Amber Salvadras introduced LSU President William F. Tate, IV.

President Tate thanked the Staff Senate for the opportunity to speak with the group today.

President Tate opened his remarks by mentioning that staff are getting raises this year. There is some one time money available that LSU may receive but the raises will be funded internally. Kimberly Lewis, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer is working through the process to make sure that it happens. He appreciates and values all staff members for all that they do at LSU and looks forward to continue to work with everyone.

The floor was opened for questions.

President Salvadras thanked LSU President William F. Tate, IV for attending today's meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER – TONYA JOHNSON, LSU VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

Past-President Jonathan Levesque introduced LSU Volleyball Head Coach Tonya Johnson.

Tonya Johnson thanked the Staff Senate for the opportunity to speak with the group today.

Tonya Johnson opened her remarks by mentioning some of her back ground in attending LSU on a scholarship in 1987. She was on the first Final 4 team in 1990 and in again in 1991. She loved her time at LSU as a student athlete and if she could do it all over again she would. Tonya's father taught and coached for 25 years, so she has always knew that she wanted to be a coach. Tonya shared that it has been her lifelong dream to coach at LSU and that came to

fruition last year. She feels truly blessed that she has been given this opportunity. She is proud to be the head coach for volleyball at LSU.

The floor was opened for questions.

President Salvadras thanked Coach Tonya Johnson for attending today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – April 20, 2022 Staff Senate Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Past-President Jonathan Levesque. The motion, seconded by Senator Amy Trahan, carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Amber Salvadras reviewed relevant meetings in which she attended.

- April 20 - May 3 - Executive Committee had the opportunity to interview and meet with each of the four candidates for the Vice President of Online and Continuing Education (Kappie Mumphrey, Art Recesso, Leah Simpson and Geri Genovese)
Executive Committee also had the opportunity to interview and meet with each of the four candidates for the Executive Vice President and Provost (Roy Haggarty, Cynthia Young, Wanda Blanchett and Matt Lee)
- May 3 - Successful Staff Appreciation Tailgate with 200+ in attendance was held. Special thanks to our Campus Federal Credit Union Family for their support and the jambalaya, Facility Services, Ben Manuel and his crew for delivery and pick up of tables and chairs, Thanks to Scott Millican with ARRCO for the drink donations, and shout out to all of the Senators who came together to help make this a successful event.
- May 6 - Search Committee for Provost came together and met with President Tate, gave him the final recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Senate Budget

Treasurer Catherine Herman provided a written financial report that was included in the meeting packet for review by the full Senate.

NEW BUSINESS

LSU Staff Senate Resolution 22-01 in Calling for the review and eliminations of fees for staff enrolled in Tuition Exemption, sponsored by the LSU Staff Senate

Second Reading, read by Past-President Jonathan Levesque

WHEREAS, one of the primary charges of the LSU Staff Senate, the elected representative body for staff members, is to advocate for staff and serve as a bridge between staff and administration on matters of importance and concern; and

WHEREAS, the Tuition Exemption program offered to staff has not been updated since the introduction of new fees to the funding structure of LSU; and

WHEREAS, the current Tuition Exemption program does not exempt employees from fees which have risen 41% since 2012 and now currently cost \$383 per 3 semester hour undergrad course and \$471 per 3 semester hour graduate course; and

WHEREAS, the current LSU Online Tuition Exemption policy only discounts online tuition at 70%. Today's cost to the employee is currently \$341 per undergraduate course and between \$471 to \$999 per class for graduate courses; and

WHEREAS, the Staff Senate expresses serious concern the Tuition Exemption policy no longer serves the original intent of access to education at a low cost for LSU Employees as a retention strategy; and

WHEREAS, the current cost structure represents a major barrier to entry and inhibits career development for a significant portion of LSU staff with serious impacts on employees earning below the Louisiana median salary and individuals from underrepresented populations; and

WHEREAS, Research shows Unclassified employee participation in the Tuition Exemption Program outnumbers Classified employee participation by a margin of 10:1, and employees from under-represented groups are outnumbered 3:1 suggesting that the increased cost of this program is having a negative impact on participation by classified and minority employees.

THEREFORE, be it resolved; the LSU Staff Senate hereby expresses serious concern the Tuition Exemption Policy inhibits the university's efforts to develop and diversify LSU employees in leadership positions. The LSU Staff Senate proposes the following recommendations and requests:

- Align LSU Online Tuition Exemption with the "Traditional Tuition Exemption" Program. Online programming is one of the best options for our full-time working professionals.
- The Office of The President, in collaboration with the University Administration, review and recommend changes to the fees imposed on LSU employees enrolled in the Tuition Exemption Program.

THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Remy Starns, Chair of the LSU Board of Supervisors; William Tate, LSU President; Matt Lee, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost; Kimberly J Lewis, Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer; Donna Torres, Vice President for Finance; Clay Jones, Associate Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer; Mandi Lopez, Faculty Senate President; Amber Salvadras Council of Staff Advisors Chair; and Lizzy Shaw, Student Government President.

A motion to approve LSU Staff Senate Resolution 22-01 was made by President-Elect Tammy Millican. The motion, seconded by Senator Amy Trahan, carried.

The Staff Senate approved the Resolution with no abstentions.

Staff Senate Executive Officer Nomination Speeches

President Salvadras announced the 2022-2023 Staff Senate Executive Officer Candidates. The full Senate will hear their election speeches during this meeting today and voting will be open electronically this afternoon. The written speeches that have been received will be shared for those who were unable to attend today's meeting. The results will be tabulated after the deadline to vote on June 1, 2022. The new Officers will be announced during the June meeting.

Secretary	Quinneke Lee Sarah Salesneves
Member-at-Large	Amy Trahan Emmy Hicks Valori Washington
Treasurer	Henri Smith (unopposed)
President-Elect	Gerald Sansoni Joshua Duplechain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Senator Birthday

Staff Senator May Birthdays:

- Senator Quinneke Lee celebrated her birthday on May 11.
- Senator Karina Rafati will celebrate her birthday on May 22.

Happy Birthday!

June Meeting

The June 15, 2022, End of the Year General Meeting will be held in 225 Peabody Hall with a luncheon afterwards. The Staff Senate plans on hosting some of the food items as well as circulating a sign up for Senators to bring some items as well.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – With there being no more business, Senator Henri Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Senator Walta Ghebreyessus, carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

John Nickerson, Secretary

JN/mm