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2024 January 8 - Staff Senate Minutes

Staff Senate, East Tennessee State University

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I. Call to Order

President Finney called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm. The meeting was held in the D.P. Culp Student Center on January 8, 2024.

II. Attendance

Members present: Cathy Webb, Donna Nelson Barnes, Shelly Higgins, William Cate, Vanessa Canter, Cody Greene, Dan Bishop, O.J. Early, Rachel Kellogg, Amanda Sawyers, Joy Fulkerson, Trish Caughran, Cody Morelock, Liz Thomas-Joseph, David Robinson, Kari Albarado, Joe Bidwell, Debbie Roach, David Finney, Kimberly Ferrell, Dave Edwards, Skylar Moore, Benjamin Smith, Candy Massey, Veronica Roberson, Kathi Horne, Aneida Skeens.

Members absent: Ruth Canter, Brooke Garland, Cody Henson, Suzy Hooven, Joy Hurley, Stefanie Murphy, Brian Thompson, Jeremy Watson.

Absent with permission: Katie Sellers.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (November and December).

1. Minutes were approved with minor changes, correcting spelling and updating the attendance list. For November minutes, Senator Cody Morelock made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Senator Vanessa Canter. For December minutes, Senator Joe Bidwell made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Senator Morelock.

IV. Updates for Senators

1. Senators Veronica Roberson gave an update on the May staff event. A theme related to Taylor Swift is possible, and Senator Roberson would soon be sending an email related to donations. All Senators will need to help collect donations, she said. President Finney encouraged Senators to ask companies and businesses to make donations. Firehouse will be catering, and President Finney would lobby President Dr. Brian Noland to close the university.

V. President Report

1. President Finney wished everyone a restful 2023-24 winter break.
2. Following a University Council meeting, President Finney said there was not much action taken as President Noland was traveling and faculty and staff were getting settled back in. President Finney noted that Karen King said all was going well with Voyager, which is set to launch later this year, and that related training would continue.
3. President Finney made sure Senators were aware of the new RingCentral phone system, which Senator Candy Massey said would function well.



President Finney also encouraged first-year students and seniors to take the NSSE survey, short for the National Survey of Student Engagement.

4. On the subject of task forces, President Finney said the college structure taskforce worked through the 2023-24 winter break. He also reminded Senators that public comment for the general education policy was open through January 8, pointing Senators to where they could find related documents.
5. President Finney said overall spring enrollment was a net positive. He did share that 615 students had been dropped as of January 8 but that spring enrollment was up.
6. President Finney brought attention to the many changes happening with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as the FAFSA. He said the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships was regularly updating their website to reflect changes from the federal government.
7. President Finney expressed a desire to see Staff Senate committees get far more active in 2024. He encouraged committees to meet soon, if only to introduce themselves to each other. He asked committee members to take minutes, even if brief, and send to Vice President Cody Greene. Committee chairs should be flexible and committee members should be accommodating, he said.

VI. **Treasurer's Report**

1. Treasurer Caughran gave a report on current financials.

VII. **Adjournment:** Senator Vanessa Canter made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Senator Shelly Higgins.