



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

## STAFF COUNCIL

**September 21, 2017**

**UC 208, 10:00AM**

- I. Call to Order  
10:06 AM by LeeAnne Sipe, Staff Council President
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Quorum met: Unanimously approved minutes from August Meeting
- III. Executive Committee Reports
  - a. President, LeeAnne Sipe
    - i. Rajni will discuss the staff concerns that have been submitted via the Staff Concerns' inbox.
  - b. Vice-President, Rajni Soharu
    - i. Sign in sheets are in the back for the committees. I have been meeting with committees and will meet with the Staff Concerns committee and the Awards committee this week.
    - ii. Thank you for sending the concerns. Please be more specific in your concerns so that when I send them to the departments, I can tell them exactly what things need to be addressed. All concerns have been forwarded to the appropriate departments. President Nicklow will be here in November to address raises.
  - c. Treasurer, Taryn Chevis  
All account information as of September 20, 2017
    - i. Credit union acct. \$5.42
    - ii. Foundation Endowment acct. \$10,718.99
    - iii. Foundation Activity/Spending acct. \$3,009.87
    - iv. General Fund \$2,750
  - d. Corresponding Secretary, Karen Paisant-no report
  - e. Recording Secretary, Reagan Laiche
    - i. Minutes are sent to Corresponding Secretary and are posted at least one week prior to the next month's meeting.

IV. Committee Reports:

- a. Membership/Elections Committee: The Elections Committee is currently reviewing election procedures.
- b. By-Laws Committee: no report
- c. Staff Concerns Committee: no report
- d. Events Committee: Per LeeAnne Sipe:
  - i. Karen Paisant has set dates for upcoming events. Tentatively plan for Blue Cliff College to return to campus to give massages.
  - ii. The Holiday Door Decoration contest will begin earlier this year.
  - iii. Staff Social set for the Spring and we continue to look for potential fundraising opportunities.
- e. Awards Committee: no report
- f. Professional Development Committee (ad hoc):
  - i. Amanda Athey: Met last week to discuss the staff survey done in Spring. Most people indicated that they would like professional development in person and Top Skills most wanted: grant writing, Excel and Time Management. Will try to work on a handout at the beginning of each semester to alert us as to what is being offered.

V. Guest Speakers: Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar, Provost and Mr. Patrick Stewart, Assistant Provost-Special Projects

Dr. Amouzegar: Has been at UNO for about 9 months and has enjoyed being here and getting involved in many aspects of UNO. In the next 5 to 10 years, he is looking to the 12,000 enrollment mark. The decline in enrollment has stopped. We are almost flat with a 15% increase in new freshmen and transfers. 8500 mark next fall as our goal is looking reasonable and attainable.

NO JOB on this campus does not impact students. We want this to be a welcoming campus and a good experience from Orientation to Advising, and so on.

Generally speaking, in terms of raises: the CFO and Dr. Nicklow would like to give raises as a signal that we are ready for growth. We want retention to be linked to pay increases. We want to make sure you understand that we are all in this together.

What is a Provost? The highest academic officer at the University, the chief academic officer. The Deans report to the Provost. As a provost, I am responsible for the health of the colleges. I have to think broadly about how the future should look in academics. Student Affairs is also part of my portfolio.

Questions from staff:

What is our goal for retention?

Retention is our focus right now. There is not a particular number or single goal for the campus. The idea is to look at what is happening in the individual programs and find out why students are leaving. We need to determine the root cause for students who are leaving.

Dr. Solanky has found, through a study he is conducting, focusing on the first Math course, that students who earn a GPA of less than a 2.4 that it is highly unlikely they will return. If a 2.0 GPA, then 80% of them will not be here the next semester.

We are noticing that some of the classes where students are earning a grade of D, F or W it is up to 60% in some classes. We do not want to be punitive. We want to allow faculty to teach their classes but if we see a pattern, we will need to address.

What is our Fall 2017 enrollment?

Enrollment is close to 8000 for the Fall 2017 semester.

Is there an exit survey for students who do not return?

We are starting to do this. The study I referenced by Dr. Solanky is just one study that believes that only the first semester will determine retention. Yet we know that many leave because of financial reasons. We know some leave because of family. We want to make sure that we (UNO) are not the cause.

How is the retention rate calculated?

If we have 100 students in the fall, are they still here in the Spring? The same students are tracked. It helps with the graduation rate.

The retention rate is more than just the first year. The longer the student is here, the more likely they are to stay. They know where the resources are at this point, how to navigate campus.

What is this new hold on students' accounts?

This is new for the semester. We don't want them to drop classes without speaking with an advisor. We want to have a conversation. It is for all students. We are trying to be more proactive.

Is UNO opening a Northshore Campus?

Not a campus, just offering classes through College of Business.

Patrick Stewart, Assistant Provost for Special Projects:

He is here to offer a different perspective. We all understand that resources are being cut, state support is dwindling but he is here to try to get people to take a different approach, to find new routes for funding. If we anticipate what will happen, we can prepare in advance.

Communication: Who are you talking to? Who are you sharing stories with? Understand who is being served by the work that you do. If not for UNO (us) how would the community suffer? How are you helping people to understand the value that we bring? People are more inclined to support you when they understand your value to them. Each of us is responsible for the health and vitality of UNO. We need to build a community of people who advocate and support the work done by UNO. Get out and share positive stories of UNO so that people understand and believe that UNO is worthy of their support and advocacy.

Patrick's role: I'm here to help. I want to help craft your story; determine who to target for help and who will be supportive.

Special Projects and Partnerships has a Service Learning component. It can be defined either by volunteers or by structured projects. Our focus will be on structured projects with an academic focus. Engaging students in the community.

Patrick indicated a webpage dedicated to his area is not yet available. He would like to conduct more formal sessions where ideas can be exchanged.

**VI. New Business**

Carol Lunn shared that Innovate UNO will be November 1 and 2, 2017. More UNO Undergraduate student engagement is needed. Only 41 undergraduates have registered to date.

UNO is hosting the Academic Summit in April 2018 so all UL schools will be here.

The Distinguished Alumni event will be on November 2 at the WWII museum. It coincides with the Innovate UNO event and will be a great way to show off our research.

Brett Hornsby reminded the group that Get to Know UNO registration forms would be out this week. Spring Open House (Explore UNO) will be February 17, 2018.

**VII. Old Business-none**

**VIII. Next Meeting: October 19, 2017 in UC 208 at 10:00 am-Donna Roark of Human Resources-Benefits**

**IX. Door Prize: Donated by Athletics. Won by Ken del Po.**

**X. Adjournment: 11:00 am**



UNIVERSITY of  
NEW ORLEANS

Sign-in Sheet  
Councilors

Staff Council

Date: 9/21/2017

Last	First	Members FY 17
Athey	Amanda	<i>Amanda Athey</i>
Berry	Sarah	<i>Sarah Berry</i>
Calamari	Susan	
Chevis	Taryn	<i>X taryn Cheris</i>
Foster	Alicia	
Gibbs	Shelita	<i>Shelita Gibbs</i>
Laiche	Reagan	<i>Reagan Laiche</i>
Lambour	David	<i>David Lambour</i>
Lunn	Carol	<i>Carol Lunn</i>
McDonald	Brian	<i>Brian McDonald</i>
Mitton	Carol	<i>Carol Mitton</i>
Mukherjee	Norma	<i>Norma Mukherjee</i>
Paige	LaJana	<i>LaJana Paige</i>
Paisant	Karen	
Richardson	David	<i>David Richardson</i>
Sipe	LeeAnne	<i>LeeAnne Sipe</i>
Soharu	Rajni	<i>Rajni Soharu</i>



# UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

STAFF COUNCIL MEETING  
Sign-in sheet for STAFF MEMBERS  
Date: 09/21/2017

STEVEN DAY

TROY BACINO

Allia Calp

Chanie Brouard

Reslie Lindsey

Ken delPo

Joanne Tranora

Nora Allen Chapuis

Abel

Cynthia Allen

Mitzi Benton

Lynette D. Bates

Rosamond Myers

Eliza Nascarella

Rita Camulle

Erin Sutherland

Natalie Gempl

Kim Gaiennie

Bridgette Blum

Nyquist

Jody Duvernay

Mike Braumgr

Marilyn Hayden

Amy King

Megan Stenmetz - Athletics

Brett Hornsby