

Those present included:

Patricia “Patty” Oates - President

Cody Palazzolo- President Elect

Kyle Walker- Secretary

Treva Lincoln- At Large

Angelica Bruno

Pam Galindo

Michele Holmes

Michael Boutte

Brian “Nic” Manuel

Courtney Martin

Toya D. Shanklin

Dale Prince

Alicia Edwards

Welcome and call to Order by President Patty Oates at 2:00pm

Invited Speakers and Questions/Answers

Chancellor Steve Nelson, MD:

- Championed the creation of the Staff Senate because it is important for everyone to have a voice & know they are valued.
- Provided raises 3 years in a row with plans to continue this year. This institution provides a meaningful career and employees should know they have a career path and the opportunity to grow professionally and financially.
- It is important to let leadership know about your ideas. The Chancellor works for the faculty and staff who should have avenues to succeed. It is important to reduce turnover. Benefits such as Coursera career academy; crisis leave, competitive salary and the ombudsmen show LSUHSC is a place where employees are recognized and valued. The staff is responsible for performing their jobs to the best of their abilities.
- UNO: Hopefully, there will be an opportunity for dual degrees with UNO. UNO merger is pending accreditation from SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) which should happen within 1 year.
- Employees of the LSU community receive a 20% discount on non-credit professional development online and on-campus courses. This discount applies to LSU Faculty and Staff and their immediate household family members. Staff Senate could bring this up as a resolution to include LSUHSC.

Ben Lousteau, Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance:

- Tuition exemptions have been challenging since UNO left the LSU system. LSU also changed the funds flow for online programs and LSU Shreveport declined to participate due to funding constraints. Tuition exemption is determined by the institution providing the classes. There may be a tuition exemption opportunity with UNO but that is uncertain as UNO has to manage their finances.

- It is important to read and follow [CM-28](#).
- Coursera career academy courses are available on the HR website.
- HR is working to put career ladders in place so you can see career progression.

Darren Burkett, Executive Director, Environmental Health and Safety, Property and Facilities:
Hurricane Preparedness

- It is time to finalize plans. August-September is peak hurricane season for the Gulf Coast.
- Enroll in the [e2Campus text alert system](#) Text alerts provide consistent and rapid communication to the campus.
- [Additional Hurricane information](#)

Shelly Dolan Hunger Free Campus Wellness Committee workforce

- Workforce is part of the Campus Wellness committee
- Campus is designated as a Hunger-Free Campus and the workforce manages a food bank; two donation drives and a health fair.
- Health Fair is August 20th, 3-8pm in the Lion's Eye Building, first floor.

Dr. Demetrius Porche, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs emailed his update:

- SACSCOC: Appointed Dr. Sandra Andrieu as LSUHSC-NO Liaison. On-site report was reviewed, corrected, & submitted with a final response due in August.
- Three Year Academic Plans were submitted to BOS (Board of Supervisors)/BOR (Board of Regents)
- Reviewed new BOR Academic degree programs: ULL: BS in Cardiopulmonary Science & BA in Recording Arts; Nicholls State: BA in Social Work & BS in Engineering Technology; LSU-A: BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response; LSU A&M: BS in Applied Data Sciences.
- BOR approved new LSUHSC-NO academic degree programs: PhD in Biomedical Sciences as well as Graduate Certificates for Marriage and family counseling; Mental health counseling; Play therapy; Rehabilitation counseling and School counseling
- Reviewing/Updating PM's (Permanent Memorandums): PM 23 – librarians of professional practice as well as a PM regarding export controls compliance
- Reviewed the Animal Care Internal Audit report and recommendations
- BOR Waiver Request in process for the Endowed Chairs Search Process for the SOD and SOM
- BOS approved renewals of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence & the Cancer Center of Excellence as well as the new Trauma/Injury/Burn Center of Excellence
- IBC Transparency Federal policy guidelines are being implemented
- IRB update: working on staff stabilization; recruitment of IRB members & Director interviews
- LSU On-line: Ongoing discussions about MOU with SOPH and VP/Provost Haggerty; Council of Online Leaders is being re-established; LSU A&M launching BS in Computer Engineering & MS in Geography
- LSU System Accreditation Group: Erika May presented Lessons learned
- Financial Aid: Blue Icon report reviewed status with Director FA
- ORS/IRB Reviewed CAPA with Consultant – developing operational plans

- ACT 125 – Open and Affordable Textbooks completed by Registrar
- Commencement – May only – December at the nursing school level
- OCIS BR campus for Nursing school to start fall 2025 semester
- Some changes in accreditation standards – removal of any DEI language and requirements

Approval of June Minutes: Motion- Courtney Martin; Second by Kyle Walker; none opposed; motion passed

President's Report - Patty Oates

Council of Staff Advisors met in June & I was introduced to the Staff Senate Presidents at the different campuses. Discussed the current status of each campus prior to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. LSU A&M Staff Senate President presents reports from each campus to the BOS. The LSUHSC Staff Senate was introduced & we thanked Dr. Nelson for his help and guidance with getting the Staff Senate up and running and reported on our events that took place. It was explained that we are new, and our committees are working on upcoming events to recognize the staff. Our committees have been meeting and working on the concerns that staff have.

Committee Reports

Communications – Chair: Courtney Martin. Co-Chair- Kyle Walker

- Communications plan: 1 week after staff senate meeting notes are sent that each senator can use as a way to communicate with their schools/divisions & minutes added to website.
2 weeks until next meeting: digital board graphics on display & included in weekly campus wide Upcoming Events email. Mass staff email submitted for approval.
1 week until next meeting: Staff email sent & agenda posted to website
- Future staff meetings: Available QR code of agenda; ability to pre-submit questions
- Developing form for Staff Senate Committees to submit event/activity for promotion. Ideal time frame 3 months prior to event
- Utilize Microsoft teams for internal Staff Senate communication & the website for external communications.
- Developing an email signature line for senators
- Website will be enhanced
- Communications committee members now have access to website graphics in Canva

Community Engagement and Development- Chair: Patty Oates

- Working to establish a Staff Employee of the Month/or quarter program & received approval from Chancellor Nelson. Working with Brent Herold to secure a designated parking spot. The committee is developing the detailed process and hopefully, we will have our first Employee of the Month/or quarter very soon.

Elections – Chair: Patty Oates

- Working on the detailed timeline for the additional senators by school/division. Similar to the original election.

Staff Advocacy and Retention- Chair: Michele Holmes

- Working with HR to identify staff exit interview trends.
- Discussed concerns of rising food prices in the cafeteria; tuition exemption; workplace injuries and the possibility of a staff development conference.

Old Business - None

New Business - Updates from LSUSHC Committees and Schools

Faculty Senate- Michael Boutte

- Elections held. Changes in section 2.4 of the handbook. Data protection policy changes. Will develop policy on wall signage

Patty Oates

- Proposing a resolution for an At Large Senator to allow increased representation in case a second person isn't available to represent the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Nursing
- Staff Senate electronic survey to occur in August to understand staff concerns/ideas (most pressing issues; types of events, etc.)
- Ombudsmen is the August speaker

Adjourn- Motion by Patty Oates; Second by Courtney Martin at 3:20pm

Attendance: 42