

# LSU | Staff Senate

## MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2024

President Joshua Duplechain presided over the June 19, 2024 Staff Senate meeting held in Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux Restaurant at 3838 Burbank Drive, Baton Rouge, LA at 10:30 a.m.

Unclassified

### Executive/Administrative/Managerial

P - Tammy Millican ('24)

### Professional/Non-Faculty

A - Bonner, Amber ('26)

Pr - Breaux, Kevin ('25)

A - Campen, Ryan ('24)

A - Canady, Robyn ('26)

P - Carney, Mo ('24)

P - Duplechain, Joshua ('24)

A - Ferguson, Amanda ('24)

P - Gresham, Deanna ('24)

A - Guttner, Ginger ('25)

A - Hicks, Emmy ('24)

A - Jeffcoat, Danielle ('26)

A - Kennison, Jennifer ('25)

Pr - Lee, Quinneka ('24)

P - Martin-Whitaker, Neely ('25)

A - Miller, Cassaundra ('24)

P - Mimms, Anissa ('26)

P - Oster, Anthony ('24)

A - Owens, Jace ('26)

P - Phelps, Olivia ('26)

A - Rafati, Karina ('24)

P - Smith, Henri ('24)

A - Trahan, Amy ('25)

A - Washington, Valori ('26)

P - Waters, Bradley ('26)

P - White, Dayton ('25)

A - Williams, Amberlon ('24)

A - Williams-Carter, Tyrslai ('24)

P - Williamson, Jeannie ('26)

Pr - Yarbrow, Skylar ('26)

### Classified

### Skilled Crafts

A - Constance, Taylor ('25)

A - Corbitt, Brent ('24)

### Technical/Paraprofessional

P - Matkovic, Igor ('26)

A - Nehlig, Mark ('24)

### Clerical/Secretarial

A - Jensen, Jerri ('26)

P - Smith, Celeste ('26)

### Service/Maintenance

P - Robertson, Winkeyssa ('24)

P - Indicates Present

Pr - Indicates Proxy

A - Indicates Absent

A/P – indicates Absence not Counted

## **GUESTS:**

Christie Duplechain, College of Engineering  
Ashley Collins, Graduate School  
Emily Hatfield, Academic Affairs  
Tricia Cobb, Faculty Senate  
Stephenie Franks, College of Business  
Casey Muller, College of Engineering  
Libby Haydel, College of Engineering  
Eddie Manes, College of Engineering  
Debbie Blanchard, Veterinary Medicine  
Whitney Butler, College of Art & Design  
Brian Ainsworth, Campus Federal Credit Union

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Joshua Duplechain at 10:30 a.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

There was a quorum with five proxies noted.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

LSU Staff Senate Administrative Coordinator Melonie Milton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 15, 2024, Staff Senate Meeting**

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Treasurer Henri Smith. The motion, seconded by Senator Neely Martin-Whitaker, carried.

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Joshua Duplechain reviewed relevant meetings in which he attended.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Staff Senate Budget**

Treasurer Henri Smith provided a written financial report for June that was included in the meeting packet for Senate review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Recognition of Senators**

President Joshua Duplechain recognized Senators for their Dedication and Service and for those who fulfilled their terms of office. Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Liaisons on Committees during this past year were also mentioned. Duplechain also presented the President's Attendance Award to Senators who had perfect attendance to all of the Staff Senate meetings for the year.

President Joshua Duplechain announced that the LSU Outstanding New Senator Award, chosen by the Staff Senate Executive Committee, in recognition of a new member of the LSU Staff Senate who has provided outstanding service to the Senate for the 2023-2024 Senate year was being presented to Senator Bradley Waters.

President Joshua Duplechain announced that the LSU Staff Senator Service Award, chosen by the Staff Senate Executive Committee, in recognition of an individual member of the LSU Staff Senate who provided outstanding service to the Senate for the 2023-2024 year, was being presented to Senators Anthony Oster, Kevin Breaux, and Anissa Mimms.

President Joshua Duplechain also presented the President's Parachute Award to Senator Amanda Ferguson for jumping right in as a Staff Senator during 2023-2024.

### **Introduction of Elected Senators**

President Joshua Duplechain announced the newly elected Staff Senators who were chosen to serve on the LSU Staff Senate.

#### **Other Academic Employee Group:**

Tammy Millican with Facility and Property Oversight

#### **Unclassified Employee Group:**

Anthony Oster with the Center for Advising and Counseling

Ashley Collins with the Graduate School

Carli Faulkner with the Cox Communication Academic Center for Student-Athletes

Debbie Blanchard with the School of Veterinary Medicine

Derek Wilson with Information Technology Services

Henri Smith with the College of Human Sciences & Education

Michael Bonnette with Athletics

Mo Carney with Athletics

Quinneka McDonald with Residential Life

Stephenie Franks with College of Business

#### **Classified Employee Group:**

Whitney Butler with the College of Art and Design

Winkeyssa Robertson with Facility Services

### **President's Closing Address – Passing of the Gavel**

"In my election speech two years ago, I said that the reason I was running for president-elect was to improve the quality of life for our staff on this campus. That was my motivation this past year when it came to advocating for new initiatives that would benefit our staff; completing efforts that were

started by my predecessors; helping to find funding to make our appreciation events bigger and better than the year before; attending virtually every meeting I was invited to; etc.

I hasten to add that I don't want that to come across as anything other than what it was for me, which was an honor to be your voice and represent the nearly 4,000 staff on our campus on a daily basis. I got to meet people I probably never would have otherwise on campus, speak up for those who can't speak for themselves, and celebrate our staff's milestones and achievements with them. I got to hear from people about their own issues with mental illness after sharing my bouts of anxiety and depression in a past newsletter. I got to experience the richness that is our staff—people who have been here for six days or, in the case of one remarkable man, 60 years; people with wildly different backgrounds who arrived at this campus either on a whim or because their love for it started at a young age and never left them; and people who have experienced their own personal highs and lows but still show up to work with a brave face.

Because of all of those people, it was important that Staff Senate be successful in its mission and goals this year. And thanks to support from people like President Tate, Provost Haggerty, Vice Provosts Jane Cassidy and Jackie Bach, Dr. Kimberly Lewis, our Staff Senate Executive Committee, all of you, our friends in Auxiliary and Facility Services, our friends in Faculty Senate—especially Inessa Bazayev and Daniel Tirone—Emily Hatfield in the Provost's Office who is with us, and the irreplaceable Melonie Milton, Staff Senate was.

Think about what was accomplished this year for staff—a new parental leave policy; passage of a retirement bill in the legislature that will allow staff to switch from ORP to the defined benefit plan; staff representation on key hiring and advisory committees; and I believe good news is imminent on the waiving of fees for employees enrolled in courses, as well as 100% tuition remission for employees enrolled in online courses.

That's a damn good year.

Along the way, I leaned on last year's president, Tammy Millican, for advice, encouragement, affirmation, counseling, etc., and she never said she didn't have time for me or couldn't be there for me. If I had any measure of success as president this year, it is in no small part thanks to her.

And then there's my wife, Christie. She was extremely patient with me this last year to say the least. Listening to me answering emails and phone calls at all hours of the day and night about Staff Senate issues, including in line at Disney World; seeing me anxious to the point of immobility over an important meeting or from fear that something I wanted to accomplish wouldn't come to fruition; or, being that she's also a staff member on this campus, having to read my awful one-liners in my president's address each month; she put up with it all, and I'm so grateful to her and for her.

I also want to thank my deans, Judy Wornat and Karsten Thompson, for giving me the latitude to do both my day job and be away from the office for Staff Senate responsibilities. All of this would have been a non-starter without their understanding.

And lastly, I want to thank my staff—Libby Haydel, Casey Muller, and Eddie Manes—for picking up my slack and keeping the lights on while I was away. I'm sorry, but now you have my full attention, and I will micromanage you thusly.

Thank you to every single one of you here today. I hope I did okay by you.”

President Joshua Duplechain officially passed the gavel to President-Elect Olivia Phelps.

### **President Recognition**

President Olivia Phelps recognized Past-President Joshua Duplechain for his Dedication and Service for participating in committees that he had served on this year and for fulfilling his term of office.

President Olivia Phelps presented Past-President Joshua Duplechain with the President’s Attendance Award for his perfect attendance at all Staff Senate meetings for the year.

President Olivia Phelps also recognized Past-President Joshua Duplechain for his dedication and service to the LSU Community and the LSU Staff Senate, as LSU Staff Senate President 2023-2024, and thanked him for all of his work this past year. Duplechain received his President’s Plaque.

### **Introduction of the 2024-2025 Executive Committee Officers**

President Olivia Phelps announced the 2024-2025 Staff Senate Executive Committee members:

President-Elect Quinneka McDonald  
Secretary Bradley Waters  
Treasurer Henri Smith  
Member-at-Large Tammy Millican  
Past-President (Ex-Officio) Joshua Duplechain

### **Future Guest Speakers**

If anyone has any suggestions, please send those to the Executive Committee.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **New Member Orientation**

President Olivia Phelps announced that a New Member Orientation will be scheduled soon for New Members to attend.

### **Staff Senator Birthday**

Staff Senator June Birthdays:

- Senator Deanna Gresham Lee celebrated her birthday on June 2.
- Senator Winkeyssa Robertson celebrated her birthday on June 6.
- Senator Anthony Oster celebrated his birthday on June 12.
- Senator Amber Bonner celebrated her birthday on June 15.
- Senator Bradley Waters celebrated his birthday on June 15.

Happy Birthday!

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** – With there being no more business, Past-President Joshua Duplechain made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Member-at-Large Tammy Millican, carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Bradley Waters, Secretary

BW/mm