

Staff Morale and Engagement

The SME Committee met via MS Teams on January 21, 2021

Attendees: Kenneth Allen, Bobbie Carlton, Angela Ren, Melissa Taylor, Mani Vangalur

Committee Business

Nothing new to report

COVID-19

Challenges with the new registration system, testing, and receiving results have been discussed on the list serve. UofL will be offering the vaccine to the general employee population by age group. The university will share the required information on employees with the department contacting individuals when their group is permitted to register. Employees interested in possibly getting the vaccine sooner may register to be called when there are expiring vaccine doses available.

Staff Morale

The Trustees voted to increase the University's retirement contribution to 6% in the meeting taking place at the same time as SME today.

The creation of a Staff Senate logo for use on general purpose cards has been assigned to a graphic designer as of January 2021. We look forward to seeing the proposed design.

Andrew is still working with IR to obtain more details on the results of the 2019 Campus Climate Survey. Mani may also have some avenues to explore on this topic. No one on the committee received a 2020 survey to complete so it is likely data was not collected as anticipated in Fall 2020.

Staff Engagement

The Cardinal Cupboard food drive has been successful and continues. Melissa has been asked to write an article about the Staff Senate partnership with ELSB for the food drive to be included in the next issue of the quarterly Student Affairs newsletter Vibrations. We will continue to post weekly information in UofL Today about the food drive. Recent requests have been a reminder about the HSC drop off location and an updated Amazon wish list because purchased items fall off the list.

The New Employee Orientation information flier project is still in the works. We are still awaiting a response from Faculty Senate, but understand the urgency is low due to NEO still being held virtually at this time.

An idea was presented to create a type of mentor program in the Staff Senate for new staff at the university. Interested senators could sign up to be matched with an interested new employee. Rather than a coworker or supervisor relationship, this person would simply be a friendly contact who is familiar with the university helping a new employee become familiar with our campus and culture whether it is providing directions to a building, answering general UofL questions, or putting the new employee in touch with a contact in another department who can be of assistance.