

Staff Senate Chair's Report

The following represents a series of activities, meetings, conversations and events at which I represented you, the Staff Senate, and our constituents during the month of February 2017.

February 2017

February 3 – the Senate Officers met to brainstorm on ideas that came out of January 30th and 31st events. We are looking to get back to ways to acknowledge more appropriately new senators, orient folks correctly to our group.

February 9 – The Officers and I met with Lee Smith and Jeanell Hughes. This is a continuation of a meeting the officers have traditionally held with our main liaisons to University leadership.

February 10 – I met, 1:1, with Dr. Postel on the HSC. It was a good opportunity to have an open discussion about the University and opportunities moving forward. As he has indicated with previous communications, Dr. Postel committed to no largescale reductions of staff positions. He also committed to examination of spends at all levels of the organization in an effort to ameliorate our present predicament.

February 13 – Our Staff Senate regular meeting occurred on Belknap Campus.

February 15 – The Leadership Retreat on the Budget for current FY17 and future FY18 was held on the HSC. Dr. Postel led the retreat. While the financial situation is dire – a projected \$48M issue was communicated – the University, along with leadership of Drs. Postel and Billingsley, is looking for creative, innovative ways to increase revenue streams.

February 16 – The Board of Trustees met. We discussed issues surrounding leases for several University dormitories, as well as heard a version of the budget information Dr. Postel gave University leadership the day prior. Included were several ideas that were generated during the brainstorming session. An ad hoc committee has been conveyed – on which Dr. Trucios-Haynes represents the constituency representation – to examine the Board of Trustees bylaws and committee structure.

February 21 – The Staff Senate Officers met and discussed the ad hoc committee structures, purposes and opted to do a renewed call for participation.

February 23 – I had the honor of representing the Staff Senate at an event hosted on the Belknap Campus to recognize members of the University's Physical Plant who were instrumental in restoring power to the campus following the events of February 3. Dr. Postel, Jim Sears, Lee Smith and David Adams were present as well.

February 27 – The Executive Committee met on the HSC to discuss, among the typical committee business, a presentation from Mark Watkins, AVP for Business Services. The topics were parking – a subcommittee is being formed to examine our current state and future possibilities – as well as an overview of Document Management processes, and an RFP that is being developed.

March 6 – The Officers met with Lee Smith and Jeanell Hughes on Belknap Campus. We discussed the present budget situation and expressed our concern over lack of consistent communication on issues related to the University budget.

March 7 – I met with David Adams, 1:1, and again conveyed my strong desire to see increased communication as it relates to the budget and decisions made at VP/Deans levels on how to address both current year expectations and in developing FY18 budgets.

Upcoming: March 9 – Budget Development Committee meeting on Belknap; March 9 – Ad Hoc of the Board of Trustees – Bylaws; March 9 – Campus Climate Survey meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Will Armstrong, Staff Senate Chair