

JANUARY 2022

MEETING SNAPSHOT

The Staff Senate is a non-governing body, and serves as an advisory board to the Chancellor to represent all SHRA and EHRA non-faculty voices on campus. The last meeting took place on January 12, 2022 via Zoom. Here are some of the updates shared:

STAFF SENATE CHAIR'S BULLETIN

Update from Adam Clark

- Staff Assembly meeting posed these questions:
 - ~ Does one have to have a booster to be considered "fully vaccinated"?
 - At the moment, no, but discussion is ongoing.*
 - ~ Is it possible for staff to receive an intermediate January paycheck to compensate for the large gap between December and January payroll?
 - This is completely up to campus leadership.*
- The system office is no longer requiring campuses to submit COVID numbers. With the rise of cases due to the Omicron variant, in addition to at-home testing (which is difficult to monitor) the number of cases are less relevant and accurate than they once were.
- The next Employee Engagement Survey will launch in April – the survey has been reduced to about 30 statements (compared to 60 on prior surveys). Results from the survey will be shared publicly in the fall.
- Top 3 priorities for Staff Assembly this year: staff retention, salary compression, and salary equity.
- Chancellors' Cup Golf Tournament Scholarship recipients will be notified this week.
- There are efforts at Chapel Hill to provide flexibility with holidays/taking holiday time, depending on which holidays staff do/do not celebrate or acknowledge. Discussions regarding this flexibility are ongoing – still very early and no decisions have been made.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Update from Elaine Doell

- Legislative salary increases will be on January paychecks. Discretionary raises will be discussed soon and processed in February. Supervisors will work with divisional Business Officers to determine who is eligible for discretionary raises, and how much those raises will be. The discretionary raises can be between 0-5%.
- For those who are new to UNCW and do not have a performance evaluation on file yet, discretionary increases will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- [Banding rates](#) are not increasing with the legislative increases.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Karen Thompson, Committee Chair

- Nathan Grove was voted Faculty Senate President – this is his 4th and final term as President. Miles Lackey gave updates regarding funding for Veterans Hall and Randall Library. The Board of Governors approved the Ph.D. program for Coastal and Ocean Sciences. [Project Kittyhawk](#) – each campus will have the opportunity to offer their degrees in the Kitty Hawk program. Discussions regarding the System Office's potential move from Chapel Hill to Raleigh.

STAFF PRIORITIES REPORT

Update from Nina Herzog, Committee Chair

- We continue to work on our April presentation concerning salaries at UNCW. The committee would like to obtain access to the employee engagement survey and would also like to have the opportunity to review the survey results.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Elizabeth Davis, Committee Chair

- We are working on converting Scholarship posters to Spanish and getting those posted around campus. [Application is open now!](#) Priority deadline is March 1, 2022. Contact [Elizabeth Davis](#) or the [Office of Scholarships](#) if you have questions!

COVID-19 UPDATE

Update from Dr. Katrin Wesner-Harts

- The dashboard shows an increase in cases, 30 of which are faculty/staff. There is an 8.6% positivity rate. North Carolina and New Hanover County positivity rates are over 30%.
- Be thoughtful when out in the community and keep the county positivity rates in mind.
- Over 4,000 people hospitalized. Before break we were under 1,000 people hospitalized – significant increase in a small amount of time. Omicron variant is very infectious, though it is milder.
- Those who are fully vaccinated experience milder cases or may even remain asymptomatic if they contract COVID. If you have any cold-like symptoms, please don't ignore it – consider getting a COVID test and stay home from work if you're not feeling well. Of the positive cases, vaccinated people are a very small percentage.
- Vaccine and booster clinic in Veterans Hall and Warwick Center. Surveillance testing is Monday – Thursday. Testing/Vaccine hours are 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 4:30 p.m.
- Vaccinated students, faculty and staff are always welcome to participate in surveillance testing. If you have severe COVID symptoms, please contact your medical provider and don't come to work.
- If you test positive: You will isolate for only 5 days (beginning the day after your test) as long as your symptoms are resolving, and you are fever-free for 24 hours. Strict mask-wearing for an additional 5 days is also required (inside and outside, when with others, including at home).
- If you're exposed to someone with COVID: If you're vaccinated and boosted, you do not need to quarantine, but will need to do a daily health check and strict mask-wearing. If vaccinated but not boosted, you will need to quarantine for 5 days.
- Exposure is "15 minutes within 6 feet of a person" (15 cumulative minutes).
- It is important that units begin thinking about continuity of operations plans. Think about what happens if one or more people in your department are out because of COVID.
- Masks should be multiple layers and should fit properly. Keep washing your hands.
- All three vaccines are currently available on campus. We also have plenty of tests.
- Campus will not do pediatric vaccines – 16 and older only. For friends and family of staff, you can [schedule an appointment at our community testing site through LHI](#) (open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.).
- Students who are required to complete weekly surveillance testing are able to submit at-home test results in lieu of getting tested on campus, but only if the test is app-based and can print results.
- Check [Best for the Nest](#) for more information and recommended quarantine periods.
- Updated COVID-19 Special Work/Leave Provisions can be found [here](#).

ORIENTATION REPORT

Amanda Jones, Committee Chair

- Creation of an official "orientation" document for new senators is underway. If anyone has any suggestions for this document, please share your ideas with the Orientation Committee.
- January's Employee Network Chat went great! Our next [Employee Network Chat](#) will be held on February 8 from 10 - 11 a.m.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

- *Susan Smith:* [UNCW Strategic Plan](#) – please give your feedback! Also, huge thank you to the Chancellor for advocating for staff raises.
- *Angie Wiggins:* The search for Chief of Police is still ongoing. Finalist forums are scheduled for January 12, 14 and 18 – details, zoom links, and candidate information can be found [here](#).
- *Feletia Lee:* It's time for Campus Race to Zero Waste! Electronics drive in March – start digging through your garage! Last year we collected 24,000lbs, and we want to beat that this year! Follow us on social media for updates! @seahawksrecycle



NEXT MEETING:

The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 9, 2-4 p.m.

A Zoom link for this meeting will be shared via email.