FEBRUARY 2021
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 February 10, 2021 via Zoom and hosted 110 participants. Here are some of the updates shared:

STAFF SENATE CHAIR’S BULLETIN

• Ombudsperson position is moving forward: Liz Grimes, Bradley Ballou, and John Sheerer are leading the effort to bring this new role to campus fall 2021.
• Salary concerns submitted via the suggestion box were relayed to the Chancellor. There have been no salary increases for SHRA in the last 3 years and none for EHRA non-faculty in last 4 years. The Chancellor is in favor of exploring ways to remedy this outside of legislation.
• Retention of staff continues to be a concern. A suggestion was made to incorporate making UNCW a “Best Place to Work” into the Strategic Plan.

TELEWORKING

• Teleworking will continue to be advocated for, even when “normal” business operations resume.

HUMAN RESOURCES

• Final steps in the 20-21 Full Cycle Performance management cycle are on the horizon. Self-appraisal opened February 1, 2021; and Annual performance appraisal will open March 1, 2021.
• Nominations for the 2021 Staff Award for Excellence will be accepted until March 31, 2021.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

• Surveillance testing is underway. Staff can make an appointment to be tested.
• COVID-19 vaccinations for Phase 3 (university professionals that are working on campus regularly) begins on March 10, 2021. Staff that are working remotely should plan to vaccinate with Phase 4.
• Continue to practice the 3Ws (Wear, Wait, Wash) and stay a safer Seahawk.

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

• The first New Employee Coffee Hour with Staff Senators was held on February 2, 2021. These will continue on the first Friday every month.
• Welcome to UNCW, new Seahawks!

PROVOST’S REPORT

The academic affairs workplan for spring included many updates across campus. A few of the updates are below, but is not limited to:

• Plans for a “typical” summer and fall will include built-in measures to help reduce COVID spread.
• A suite of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are underway in partnership with OIDI and other partners such as: 1898 research and curricula, Africana Studies, Bridging programming, Diversity scholarships for students, Diversity and Inclusion fellows program, Faculty partnership pathway program for diversity, faculty and staff professional development initiative, living and learning community, and search committee process improvements.

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (OIDI)

Update from Jenise Wendake

• Twelve faculty and staff Diversity and Inclusion Fellows have been appointed. A special congratulations to our fellow staff members for being selected: Teddy Howell, Jeff Janowski, Mike Jefferson, Venita Jenkins, Leah Mayo, Christine Piesekat, and Taniesha Young.
• OIDI has drafted its guiding principles: Belonging, Accountability, Responsibility, and Representation.

NEW PHONE SYSTEM COMING

Update from Kathy Weiser-Marts

• New phone system replacing 2,800 phones across campus. This includes all office phones, classrooms, intercoms, conference room phones, and lobby phones.
• Voicemail will continue to go to email.
• New functionality includes a built-in directory and “soft phone” capabilities.
• Various stages of the rollout will commence over next 6 months; with an expected completion for fall 2021.
• Employees will receive additional updates in the upcoming months with more details.

RECYCLING

Update from Faiana Lee

• The Campus Race to Zero Waste 2021 is underway with an electronics drive February 26 - March 27, 2021.
• 2020 recycled 7,500 lbs and the goal for 2021 is double that! 15,000 lbs of electronics recycled.

Staff and their dependents are encouraged to use the sustainability Scholarship: Scholarship recipients must be accepted into UNCW and pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree. Priority application deadline is March 1, 2021.

Looking ahead to studying in the 2021-2022 academic year? The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid opened the scholarship application with the first deadline being March 1, 2021.

Additional scholarships are available from the Graduate School.

The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for:
Wednesday, March 10th, 2pm–4pm.
A Zoom link for this meeting will be shared via email.