

LSU | Staff Senate

MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2023

President Joshua Duplechain presided over the October 18, 2023; Staff Senate meeting held in 225 Peabody Hall at LSU at 10:30 a.m.

Unclassified

Executive/Administrative/Managerial

P - Tammy Millican ('24)

Professional/Non-Faculty

P - Bonner, Amber ('26)

P - Breaux, Kevin ('25)

P - Campen, Ryan ('24)

Pr - Canady, Robyn ('26)

P - Carney, Mo ('24)

P - Compton, Skylar ('26)

P - Duplechain, Joshua ('24)

A - Ferguson, Amanda ('24)

P - Gresham, Deanna ('24)

P - Guttner, Ginger ('25)

Pr - Hicks, Emmy ('24)

A - Jeffcoat, Danielle ('26)

Pr - Kennison, Jennifer ('25)

Pr - Lee, Quinneka ('24)

P - Martin-Whitaker, Neely ('25)

P - Miller, Cassandra ('24)

P - Mimms, Anissa ('26)

P - Oster, Anthony ('24)

P - Owens, Jace ('26)

Pr - Phelps, Olivia ('26)

A - Rafati, Karina ('24)

A - Robison, Becca ('26)

A - Roser, Kimberly ('25)

P - Smith, Henri ('24)

A - Trahan, Amy ('25)

P - Washington, Valori ('26)

P - Waters, Bradley ('26)

P - White, Dayton ('25)

A – Williams, Amberlon ('24)

A - Williams-Carter, Tyrslai ('24)

P – Williamson, Jeannie ('26)

Classified

Skilled Crafts

P - Constance, Taylor ('25)

P - Corbitt, Brent ('24)

Technical/Paraprofessional

P - Matkovic, Igor ('26)

A - Nehlig, Mark ('24)

Clerical/Secretarial

P - Jensen, Jerri ('26)

P - Smith, Celeste ('26)

Service/Maintenance

P - Chauffe, Mary Ann ('26)

P - Robertson, Winkeyssa ('24)

P - Indicates Present

Pr - Indicates Proxy

A - Indicates Absent

GUESTS:

Tiffany Sweeney, Capital Region Planning Commission/Commuter Krewe
Kenyatta Robertson, Capital Region Planning Commission/Commuter Krewe
Steve & Cynthia Losavio, Family of Richard Pimcomb
Patricia Birkett, Friend of Richard Pimcomb
Versa Stickle, Friend of Richard Pimcomb
Susan & Dennis Losavio, Family of Richard Pimcomb
Ava Losavio, Family of Richard Pimcomb
Helen Gonzales, Friend of Richard Pimcomb
Tricia Cobb, Faculty Senate
Lauren Zabaski, Construction Management
Chuck Berryman, Construction Management
Marybeth Pinsonneault, Center for Energy Studies
Bryce Duhon, Campus Life
Macy McElveen, Campus Life
Whitney Landry, Campus Life
Caitlyn Morrison, Campus Life
Katilyn Simpson, Cain Center
Natale Nappi, Facility Services
William Speyrer, Facility Services
Brian Broussard, Facility Services
Casey Coughlin, Campus Federal Credit Union
Roxane Berthelot, Campus Federal Credit Union
Zacki Soliman, 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

President Joshua Duplechain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 20, 2023, Staff Senate Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Past-President Tammy Millican. The motion, seconded by Treasurer Henri Smith, carried.

PRESENTATION OF FLAG TO THE FAMILY OF RICHARD PINCOMB

President Joshua Duplechain announced that the Staff Senate would like to present the flag honoring Mr. Richard Edwin Pincomb.

Richard passed away on September 1, 2023. He served as a Research Associate with the Center for Energy Studies. Richard earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from LSU. He also earned his Master of Petroleum Engineering degree from Tulane University. He had 29 years of service with LSU.

Richard colleagues mentioned that, as a member of the Center for Energy Studies staff, Ric was a calming presence. A sign in his office read, "Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part." He never seemed ruffled or anxious.

He worked as unto the Lord, treating all duties, large or small, with dignity. Handing out posters for the Louisiana Energy & Environmental Resource & Information Center (LEERIC) at an Earth Day festival, editing scholarly papers, scheduling events, and preparing the conference areas for events, including regularly moving tables and chairs and coordinating maintenance of the space with Facility Services. There were undoubtedly countless other tasks that he took on, courtesies he offered, and kind gestures he made, of which we were never aware.

His life proclaimed his faith in Christ. He served his parents lovingly as they aged, travelling to Metairie regularly and spending days at a time with them, especially his mother, during her last months. While the Center valued Ric as a consummate professional and sharp-minded colleague, they knew that his greatest achievements and most important roles were as a good son, adored brother, and much-loved uncle.

Richard's sister, Susan and husband, Dennis along with family and friends, accepted the flag, which was flown on October 3, 2023, over the Parade Grounds in his honor. Susan mentioned that October 3, was her father's birthday. She and her husband thanked the LSU Staff Senate for this heart-warming gesture for her brother, Richard Pincomb.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

President Joshua Duplechain recognized the recipients of the 2023-2024 Staff Senate Fee Support Scholarship Award for staff employees.

The fall 2023 Recipients are:

Natale "Nate" Nappi is pursuing a bachelor's degree in interior design. He is the first person in his family to attend a university. After graduation, he would like to leave his options open for any opportunities that may be presented. His ultimate goal is to do restaurant design that includes interior furnishings. Currently, he is a master carpenter in Facility Services.

Megan Collins who was unable to attend today is pursuing her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in English, Sports Studies, and Health Sciences. Upon graduation in spring 2024, she plans to continue working with University Laboratory School Athletic Department hopefully being able to work her way up to Athletic Director.

Caitlyn Morrison is pursuing her master's degree in Higher Education. Upon graduation in December 2023, she plans to continue working with Campus Life in her role as the Involvement Coordinator as she gains experience working in student affairs.

Lauren Zabaski is pursuing her master's degree in business administration as part of the Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA). After graduation, she plans to continue her career at LSU in Construction Management and perhaps will run for a position on the Staff Senate someday in the near future.

President Joshua Duplechain also recognized the recipients of the 2023-2024 Staff Senate Scholarship Award for dependents of staff employees.

Collin Casseri who was unable to attend today is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He hopes to work in the energy or oil and gas field once he graduates. Collin's mother, Katie Casseri works in the College of Business.

Patrick F. Herke who was also unable to attend today is majoring in Mechanical Engineering with minors in Robotics and Spanish. After graduating, he is planning to go to graduate school to get his master's before going into research and development or maybe Data Science either in Industry or someplace like one of the national labs. He is still figuring out what field he would like to do his master's in, but AI, Robotics, Mechanical Engineering, and Data Science all seem really interesting to him. Patrick's dad, Scott Herke works with Biological Sciences.

GUEST SPEAKER – KENYATTA ROBERTSON, CAPITAL REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

President Joshua Duplechain introduced Kenyatta Robertson who works with the Capital Region Planning Commission.

Kenyatta Robertson thanked the Staff Senate for the opportunity to speak today. She wanted to provide some information regarding Commuter Krewe of Louisiana which is a car ride share initiative program provided by the Capital Region Planning Commission.

Kenyatta mentioned some of the realities and impacts with regards to commuting in Louisiana. For many drivers, traffic congestion is time wasted, construction projects are frustrating, stressed about the cost of fuel and being burned out by expensive commutes.

Kenyatta shared the anticipated schedule of construction for the I-10 widening project.

- 2023-2024 - Stage 1: Temporary Widening of Westbound Acadian to I-110
- 2023-2024 - Stage 1 (flyover): Widen Westbound Flyover curve towards the Mississippi River Bridge
- 2025 - Stage 2: Demolition and Rebuild Eastbound Bridges (12–14-month duration) which will reduce the lanes to a minimum of two lanes in each direction on I-10 mainline
- 2026 - Stage 3: Lane Shifts for Restoration to three lanes in each direction
- 2026-2027 - Stage 4: Demolition and Rebuild for Westbound Bridges (open four lanes each direction on I-10 at the end of Stage 4)
- 2028 - Stage 5: Finalize New Infrastructure

Commuter Krewe serves 5 Parishes that include, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, Livingston, and Iberville. This program receives funding from the Federal Highway and Administration which is administered by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

The goal of this program is to reduce traffic congestion in the region, to improve air quality, and encourage use of alternative transportation (biking, walking, carpooling and microtransit).

Commuter Krewe is also offering Krewe Bucks and Krewe Club Incentive Programs which offers Krewe Bucks for commuting. In the first 90 days of joining the Commuter Krewe Program, by logging your carpool, vanpool, bike, walks, bus, and telework you can earn \$10-\$50 in Amazon gift cards. They are also offering emergency rides home that includes up to four rides per year by Uber, Lyft, Taxi or Bus with reimbursement of up to \$100 one way each trip if your car driver is unable to take you home.

By participating Commuter Krewe program, you get free program consultation, free use of the app (application for smart phone) to connect with carpoolers in the region, incentive awards, monthly campaign drawings, you can try it for a day with free assistance and reduce the wear and tear on your vehicle.

Anyone can join the Krewe Program by downloading the app, creating an account, find a carpool buddy, log your trips, and start earning rewards.

The floor was opened for questions.

President Duplechain thanked Kenyatta Robertson for attending today's meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Joshua Duplechain reviewed relevant meetings in which he attended.

- September 22 – attended Fall Fest which was well attended.
- September 27 – attended the Happy Hour at the Club – the attendance was much better than in the spring – Guests also stayed until the end of the event.
- October 6 – attended the Executive Committee meeting in preparation for the October General Meeting
- President Duplechain has a meeting scheduled with Michael Antoine along with Inessa Bazayev next week for some parking and safety updates.
- President Duplechain will be attending the Board of Supervisors meeting on Friday, October 20, to provide the Council of Staff Advisors Report
- President Duplechain announced that President-Elect Olivia Phelps attended a Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – a couple of updates were shared.

COMMITTEES

Staff Appreciation & Events

Member-at-Large Mo Carney reported that the committee met on October 9, to discuss some upcoming events. There are still some volunteer slots available to work at the Staff Senate table for the Benefits Fair. Holiday on Campus is scheduled on Tuesday, November 28, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to help with this event as well. Candy will also be needed to help fill 200 goodie bags for the kids who attend. Every Senator was encouraged to contribute two or more bags of candy which would help accomplish this goal. It was mentioned that many stores will have candy discounts (after Halloween) so be on the lookout! Please do not purchase candy that has Halloween wrapping paper as we would like to keep with the season.

Staff Benefits and Policy

Member-at-Large Mo Carney announced that the committee has set-up some working groups to work on this year's initiatives. One of which he is working on is to implement the revised Staff Stripes Award that will be seeking nominations soon.

Faculty Senate

Senator Dayton White announced that the Faculty Senate met on October 11. The written report was included in the October Meeting Packet.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Senate Budget

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

Annual Employees Benefits Fair

President Duplechain announced that the Benefits Fair is scheduled on October 24, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Ballroom in the LSU Student Union.

Senator Portraits

President Duplechain is scheduling professional headshots with the College of Engineering. Please reach out to him to schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Guest Speakers

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Senator Birthday

Staff Senator October Birthday:

- Senator Any Trahan celebrated her birthday on October 1.

Happy Birthday!

Senator Anissa Mimms announced that the Office of Human Resource Management will host Paws @ Work on Friday, October 27, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Stop by the green space (behind Thomas Boyd Hall and the Memorial Tower) to find adoptable dogs to pet and play with from Companion Animal Alliance.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – With there being no more business, Senator Bradley Waters made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Senator Kevin Breaux, carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Quinneka Lee, Secretary

QL/mm