

UNT Staff Senate General Meeting

November 12, 2024, Agenda

Union 332 (Senate Chamber)

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. **Stephanie filled in to preside in Brittany's place**
- II. **Roll Call**
 - a. **23 attendees, insufficient for quorum**
 - b. **More attendees came afterward, satisfying quorum. Christian moved to approve last month's meeting minutes. Suzanne seconded the motion. Senate voted in favor of approving October's meeting minutes.**
- III. **VOTE to Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (10/8/24)**
- IV. **Guest Speakers**
 - a. Dr. Elizabeth With, Senior Vice President of Student Affairs
 - i. Distributed literature about student affairs to senators. Goal of division is to make sure experiences students have outside classroom are as meaningful as those within class.
 - ii. Student Affairs Program
 1. Access Mentoring Program helps first year students succeed, 93% retention rate (vs. 77% average)
 2. Emerald Eagle Scholars help with students from low-income families. 400-500 students every year, 1600 students currently.
 3. Texas Leadership Scholars program is in third year. Founded by President Keller before joining UNT.
 4. First Generation Success Center helps with our 40% first gen student population. One individual's suggestion led to the establishment of this center.
 - iii. Reviewed student mental health services (ex: Stepped Care)
 1. 25 mental health professionals
 2. Partnership with UNT police department, vetting for a police counselor. Modelled after program at UT's, which is among a few within the country.
 - iv. Housing
 1. Need about 3,500 more beds to satisfy demand
 2. Working on a new hall with 1,000 more beds, currently figuring out financing. This hall will be all about entrepreneurship and music, aligning with president's vision. Working with College of Music and College of Business. Goal is to engage students, who will likely need to apply to live in this hall.
 - v. Dining
 1. More national brands brought into Union
 2. Hoping to bring more student attention to The Chat
 3. Working to expand dining opportunities at Discovery Park (addressing criticism). Hood is being set up within the week for hot food offerings.
 4. Moving Mean Greens from behind Maple Hall into Kerr Hall within the next 18 months, providing 300 additional seats.
 5. New resident's hall underway, which will also need dining
 6. Expanding offerings at Bruce Hall
 7. 95-98% of residents have meal plans, along with 6,000 staff and faculty plans

- vi. Bruzzy's Patio has been completed!
 - vii. More space needed at rec center. Was designed for 32,000 students, and we now have 47,000. Leisure pool will be removed to provide two levels of work out space. Three year project.
 - viii. Working on fully staffing survivor advocates
 - ix. Online student appreciation week
 - x. President is working to eradicate sexual assault on campus, creating a taskforce including police, Title IX office, Dean of Students office and more. Reporting back to president at end of Spring.
- b. Blair Wilson, Human Resources
- i. Congratulations to staff for completing performance evaluations! Numbers are great so far, reminder to finish if needed. "Grumpier" reminder emails to come otherwise!
 - ii. Gallup poll survey closes on 11/18. Currently at 35% participation rate. Let's beat Dallas!
 - iii. Annual acknowledgement, an online step-by-step guide for essentials such as emergency contacts and accruals. Can review everything is correct and verify acknowledgement of policies. (Student employees must also complete to review policies. Part-time as well.)
 - iv. Deadline for hiring new staff with a 01/02 start date is 12/09.
- c. Megan Wheeler, President's Office Liaison
- i. Not present today
- d. Dr. Albert Bimper and Vice President Clayton Gibson, Strategic Budgeting Update (about 2:45)
- i. Budget Steering Committee (Broad-Based) and Technical Committee (Subject Matter Experts)
 - ii. Working on a new budget model to best serve staff and campus at large.
 - 1. Six focus groups in total, providing feedback from entire campus
 - 2. Positive feedback from people on campus
 - 3. Departments who implement budget strategic plans will be rewarded
 - iii. Committee has been discussing:
 - 1. As a college increases enrollment, they should receive a larger budget allocation to keep up with demand
 - 2. President wants students to graduate as soon as possible and to reward colleges that make curriculums that help with achieving this goal
 - 3. Committees are working to have an initial budget plan by January
 - 4. Plan will be adjusted gradually as needed
 - iv. Focus on **transparency** along with providing for students, who constitute 45% of our revenue.
 - v. Strategic budgeting page on president's website has a feedback form.

V. **Constituency Concerns**

- a. Call for New Constituency Concerns
- i. Road closures are still a concern
 - 1. Staff senate will ask for an update on Ave C construction
 - 2. Will learn more about parking and transportation meetings that are open to staff
 - ii. Concern of DCTA bus punctuality/number of buses.
 - iii. Matter of splitting meal plan swipes among family members, which is currently prohibited by UNT Dining
 - 1. Payroll deduct is presently **not** an option for staff meal plans
 - 2. John suggested new, smaller pricing packages

- iv. SB 222
 - 1. Provides paid parental leave to state employees, but currently excludes employees of higher education institutions specifically
 - 2. Blair has more specific information
- v. Star Performer Hours
 - 1. Up to 32 hours of paid leave as a reward for exemplar service
 - 2. President Keller made some revisions such as space for specifying what the employee has done and to list how their actions demonstrate at least one of UNT's core values
 - 3. FY25 allocations are increased from 12.5% to 30%.
- vi. Lighting on Highland is a concern, especially with trees blocking lighting. This is a safety concern for students.
- b. Update on Last Meeting Concerns
 - i. ASL Course Updates
 - 1. Oklahoma School for the Deaf offers free courses
 - ii. Campus Accessibility concerns
 - 1. ODA is working with facilities to make an accessible map of campus. Student Government is talking about conducting a Spring accessibility walk of campus.

VI. Officer Reports

- a. Chair Report- Brittany Landau
 - i. Student Success recommendations came out last week.
 - 1. Timeline extended through 11/15
 - ii. Shout out to Lucy and Cheyenne
- b. Chair-Elect Report- Alex Ames
- c. Secretary Report- Stephanie Myers
- d. Treasurer Report- Jeffery Kam
- e. Communications Report- Alexis Clingan
- f. Parliamentarian Report- John Bellon
 - i. Elections and bylaw updates upcoming
- g. Assessment Coordinator Report- Jack Long

VII. Standing Committee Chair Reports

- a. Communications and Public Relations- Sarah Romack
 - i. No report
- b. Membership and Assessment- Christian Bridge
 - i. No report
- c. Staff Success- Lucy Mwanzia and Cheyenne Moore
 - i. Homecoming event numbers – 102 staff attendees
 - ii. Staff Resource Fair numbers – 114 attendees, positive feedback!

VIII. University Committee Updates

- a. Call for University Committee Updates
 - i. Fine arts series committee has an open seat

IX. Old Business

- a. Website Updates
 - i. Migrating website to new content management system, ready to launch by end of month
 - ii. Analytics were used to select top 3 featured pages

- iii. Send suggestions for additional resources that can be included on site!
- iv. New constituent concerns page
- v. Planned page for Ask the Senate! Meeting highlights
- vi. Any new staff senate photos would be appreciated!

X. New Business

- a. New Employee Orientation updates
 - i. Will start presenting in person in January, and will also bring Staff Senate gifts to orientation.
- b. New post cards have been printed!

XI. Announcements

XII. Adjournment