

USF Staff Senate Meeting

November 12, 2019

USF Marshall Center Chamber Room 4th Floor

President Howle called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

**SPEAKER:** Laurie Walker, Director of the USF Botanical Gardens. Laurie has been with USF for almost twenty years as the Director of the Botanical Gardens. She first started volunteering at the USFBG in the mid 1990’s. The USF Botanical Gardens is located on the southwest corner of campus where USF Alumni drive deadends. The gardens currently have three FTE’s and are open 7-days a week, but are closed for major holidays. The mission of the USFBG is to foster appreciation, understanding and stewardship of our n atural and cultural botanial heritage through living plant collections, displays, education and research. USFBG considers themselves *a living museum*. Most are surprised to learn that the USF Botanical Gardens have plots for students to grow vegetables, an appiary, bee keeping workshops, and put on events such as weddings. Laurie closed her discussion by giving an insight to the current state of the honey bees and gave recommendations on how humans could save bees – Do not use pesiticides! If there are any questions, Laurie said you can email her at lwalker@usf.edu.

**PRESIDENT:** President Howle passed out the menus for Jackson’s Bistro, Harpoon Harry’s Crab House and the Columbia Restaurant. She asked all senate members to review them so a vote can be made on the location for the Staff Senate Holiday Party next month.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Ms. Washington said she had no update at this time.

**SECRETARY:** Wendy Jennings was absent – Amber Ratz took minutes. October meeting minutes were not approved – will be approved at the January meeting.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Ms. Wilds shared that the senate spent $50.00 for the Benefits Fair. The Staff Senate received donations for the Dollars for Staff Scholars account – she will share the amount at the next meeting.

**SERGEANT @ ARMS:** Ms. Nickless was absent – no update.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Ms. Vojnovic was absent – no update.

**COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:** Ms. Gates Fowler did not have any updates at this time, other that Ms. Ruiz is doing a great job with the Staff Senate Facebook page.

**QUIET QUALITY AWARD:** Ms. Louise-Jeune will share the email template with Ms. Ruiz that is usually distributed to the departments. Ms. Louise-Jeune requested that once this email is distrubuted, all senate members please share it with your departments for submissions.

**SENATE OPERATIONS:** Kym Sellers was absent – no update.

**STAFF MORALE:** Ms. Pierson was absent, but Ms. Gates-Fowler gave an update for her.

The senate discussed a date for the next Support-a-Bull event – December 3rd from 9-11am in front of the USF Library. Setup begins at 8:30am. All senate members are asked to bring snacks and/ or beverages for the students. Popular items include fruit, cookies and chips. Ms. Pierson was unable to get ahold of anyone at Cooper Hall for the Fall event, but will try again for the Spring.

Action Item: Ms. Pierson to send out an email to the USF Staff Senate with the details of the Support-a-Bull event on 12/3/19.

**UNIVERSITY WIDE:** Ms. Brown is currently confirming guest speakers and collecting their bios for the 2020 season. She is also using her contacts at MSC Aramark to get free snacks for the future Staff Senate Meetings.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** December Staff Senate Strategic Planning Meeting – December 10th

Ms. Washington motioned to have the Bull Runner pick-up and drop off Staff Senate members at the USF Library for the Staff Senate Strategic Planning Meeting on December 10th. Pricing should cost no more than $200.00. Ms. Wilds’ seconded. All approved.

Ms. Washington motioned to have a $15-$20 secret santa gift exchange at the Strategic Planning Meeting. Ms. Curry seconded. All approved.

The senate voted on Jackson’s Bistro for the location of the December Staff Senate Strategic Planning Meeting.

Action Item: President Howle to send out a calendar invite to the USF Staff Senate with the details of the Staff Senate Strategic Planning Meeting and the minutes from the 11/12/19 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by President Howle at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Amber Raz, Staff Senate Assistant Recording Secretary for Wendy Jennings, Senate Secretary