

Appalachian State University Staff Senate

Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:30 p.m.

Zoom



1. Agenda items for the May meeting -

a. Call to Order

i. Attendance and Recognize guests

b. Approval of March and April Meeting Minutes

c. Speaker 1: Representatives from Wellness and Prevention Services, Student Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Office of the Dean of Students.

Alex Howard: Gave overview of mental health services delivery looks like for students. Additional information was presented by Mary Hodges and Taylor Rushing, Chris Hogan, and Alan Rasmussen.

Described set up, location, clinic staff, duties of student health facilities. Fee service, students pay student health fee of around \$162. No copay, no financial barrier to access care. Described types of mental health diagnosis. Care has continued through Covid closings. Position posted for 2nd Psychiatric provider. Current services offered over the summer. Tele Mental Health services provided.

Eligibility: student must be enrolled in one summer sessions or have been enrolled in spring and are enrolled in fall. Offers workshop series to deal with mental health issues. Self-help resources offered through counseling center <https://counseling.appstate.edu/06152017>

Dean of Student's office recognized staff. Spoke about student services offered through their office. Addressed challenges that have developed due to Covid closings. Mountaineer Emergency Fund was awarded more than \$375,000 raised by University Development. CARES Act: benefits students affected by Covid.

Wellness and Prevention Services talked about work of Counseling, Education, Recovery, and Nutritional Services. Visit <https://wellness.appstate.edu/> for more detailed information.

d. Speaker 2: Wayne Randall, BCBS NC

Manager of current Boone center located on Howard St. Can assist with anything having to do with your health benefits, better understanding, and how it can best serve you. Talked about covering the costs of Covid testing. Hires ASU Student Associates. Emphasized community involvement. Local Girl Scout group meets in their center, supported Watauga HS sport team, Habitat for Humanity,

Children's' Council. Visit <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/centers> for more information on the BCBS Howard Street Center.

Question: Can you change primary care physician yourself? Yes, individuals can change this through Benefit Focus. Log into your account through Blue Cross NC.

e. HR Update

Mark Bachmeier acknowledged that we are in a cycle of adaptation to change. Paid admin leave continued past May 8th for permanent employees. Telework leave extended. Mandatory employees that are required to come to work will be provided time and a half comp time, ASU opted to continue to pay this out through at least May 22, 2020. Latest guidance gave option to Chancellors to consider whether furlough would be appropriate for positions funded through revenue supported funds. Further guidance will be provided by NC system HR level. Returning to work and what that looks like will be a state wide decision. There will be a coordinated effort at the state level working on detailed guidance about this. Many issues to consider including child care needs and vulnerable populations.

Question: If decision is made to furlough staff in the fall, what might that look like? Reply: Mark has had no indication and there is no current authority for that to happen. What's not laid out clearly are details about required notice or process. Unpaid leave during a determined period of time. Health coverage would still be available. Limited to receipt funded areas of campus. It's a policy without a procedure for now.

f. Chair's Update

Staff Assembly updates similar to what Mark discussed in HR. Elections updates: voter turnout was high, and we now have a full roster of 50 senators next year. Formal inductions in June meeting.

Parking update: Paul Forte replied. Here is his email:

The UNC System issued guidance that refunds of parking fees will be addressed by individual institutions consistent with the institution's applicable policies and practices.

We have been and continue to be following our parking policy, which is that refunds must be requested by March 31. This is consistent with the System guidance, and was also consistent with our established policy in the absence of any System guidance to do anything other than that. As I have reviewed this matter, I recognize we could have been more proactive in our communications, and regret that we were not, and that some people were not aware of the policy as a result of that.

In addition, you may be aware that several campuses within the UNC System began to receive complaints that are expected to become class action lawsuits regarding tuition and fee refunds. The System is working with the state Attorney General on responding to these complaints, and at this juncture, it would be harmful to the System and potentially to our campus to deviate from our policy.

I am sorry, as I know this is not the answer you want to hear.

Some actions we have taken that might help are that we made some adjustments to the payroll deduction option for parking to make it a pre-tax deduction, and we also tabled a proposed parking fee increase for next year, which we had previously planned to propose.

-Paul Forte, Vice Chancellor, Business Affairs

AppBuilds a Home: completion in mid May. Virtual home dedication on May 31, 2020 <https://appbuildsahome.appstate.edu/>

g. Treasurer's Report

Fund Name	Account Number	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
State Funds					
Operating Fund	109130	4,053.27	0.00	0.00	4,053.27
Special Funds					
AppKIDS (Foundation Supported)	227202	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
AppKIDS (non foundation)	990152	3,698.59	0.00	0.00	3,698.59
Associated Scholarship Fund	990155	4,506.43	0.00	0.00	4,506.43
Receipt Supported Fund	990158	700.35	0.00	0.00	700.35
Foundation Funds					
Foundation AppKIDS fund (Supports 227202)	992568	3,931.25	0.00	0.00	3,931.25
Appalachian Staff Current Scholarship	993465	3,742.14	10.00	0.00	3,752.14
ASU Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund - Principal	994931	20,037.63	0.00	0.00	20,037.63
ASU Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund - Earnings	995931	6,498.74	0.00	0.00	6,498.74

h. Old Business

i. New Business

i. Fundraising Committee Update

Virtual silent auction has been approved now platform will need to be determined. Mountaineer Emergency Fund solicitations continue.

ii. Marketing Committee Update

No current Chair. No update.

iii. Staff Recognition Committee Update

No updates.

- iv. Events Committee Update
Summer Shindig was cancelled. Fall events are in the works.

- j. Adjournment- motion accepted.

- k. Open Comments

- l. Mark Your Calendar dates:

- i. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 1:30-3:00 pm, whether on campus or off, we will have a virtual option