

STAFF SENATE

Friday, June 15, 2018

Staff Senate Elections- Special Topic Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The Ozark Campus Staff Senate was called to order by President Spicer for a special topic meeting on Friday, June 15, 2018 at 9:04 a.m. in the Conference Room 137 in the Ozark Health Science and Wellness Building.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present:

Jennifer Thomas
Mike Bogue
Peter Clifton

David Spicer
Julie Schmalz
Stacie Harden

Ex-Officio Present:

Beverly Nehus

President Spicer called a special topic meeting for Senators to discuss the process of having a specific ATCC senator position on the Staff Senate. The ATCC senate position is not clearly stated in the by-laws, and therefore must be discussed further. President Spicer shared Chancellor Sikes intention for the Staff Senate. Chancellor Sikes would like an ATCC representative on the Senate at all times. If the Senate is not able to agree on this position at this time, then a new senate position for ATCC should be made available.

DISCUSSION

- President Spicer explained the current situation to the Senate. At the present time nine nominees have accepted their nominations for the two positions open on the Staff Senate. One of the nine nominees does include Jennifer Thomas an ATCC employee. President Spicer reminded Senate members all changes to by-laws must be approved by the Chancellor, the President, and the Board of Trustees. With the election process timeline approaching it is not possible to change the by-laws at this time. President Spicer then opened the floor for discussion on ways to handle the situation.
 - Senator Harden informed senate members since the by-laws do not state a spot for ATCC must be held, it would be wrong for the senate to dictate the election process and hold a spot for ATCC. This current situation also opens up a separate issue with other departments within the Ozark Campus who do not have representation on the Senate. If ATCC gets special representation, other departments should as well, such as Adult Education.
 - President Spicer informed senate members he believed the by-laws were meant to be interpreted as having a representative from ATCC on the Senate at all times. The wording at the present time is not correct, but knowing Chancellor Sikes intentions for the Senate, an ATCC representative needs remain on the Senate. President Spicer discussed a few options available to the senate:

- Option 1- One of the two open senate positions will be filled by Jennifer Thomas, the only ATCC accepted nominee, and an election will be held for the remaining senate position between the eight general staff members.
- Option 2- The election could run as normal for two open positions between all nine nominated staff members, including Jennifer Thomas from ATCC. After voting occurs if Jennifer Thomas from ATCC did not receive enough votes to remain on the Senate then the Senate would vote to change the by-laws to add a seventh senate member and elect a staff member from ATCC to serve.

MOTIONS

Senator Clifton entertained a motion to the senate as follows:

The senate shall proceed with the Staff Senate elections with one position available. The eight general staff members nominated will be voted on by staff members. The second position will be filled by Jennifer Thomas from ATCC who was the only candidate from the ATCC department. The motion also contains the following requirements: a correction to the by-laws to add a dedicated ATCC position shall be completed ASAP by the Staff Senate, and the election email to staff members must explain the reason why there is only one senate position remaining.

The motion was seconded by Senator Bogue, and President Spicer entertained a vote on the motion.

The motion was passed with 3 votes in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstention for conflict of interest.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Harden motioned, Senator Thomas seconded, and all approve and motion carried to adjourn at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Thomas, Secretary