

Florida Tech Staff Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

9am – Board of Trustees Room

Present: Jessica A., Kimberly R., Adam P., Kevin B., Brian D., Jamie B., Stephen VB., Rachel D., Deanna P., Grace G., Jennifer N., Angel P., Norm C., Ann Marie K., Sonny C., Michelle N., Martin G., Dory S., Jennifer N., Rebecca C., Kyler D., Jason G.

Not Present: Jeff R., Courtney M., Pat F., Tina E., Yesenia N.

Additional Guests: N/A

9:02 am Call to order
(No Guest Speaker)

9:04 am Subcommittees

- **Outreach Subcommittee** – Chair Jennifer Nessmith
 - Faculty Staff Halloween Social – event feedback/ideas for next year
 - Photo gallery is updated, e-mail announcement is ready to be sent
 - Suggestions for next year:
 - Track attendance through Engage QR or wristbands
 - Electronic Voting/crowd voting (connect to pre-sign up of costume contest)
 - New voting categories: Funniest Costume
 - More faculty engagement
 - Better lighting/spotlight was blinding in certain areas
 - No animal rule enforcement (only service dogs allowed/no therapy dogs) – Grace will look into policies for next year

- **Membership Subcommittee** – Chair Deanna Perez

- **Communications Subcommittee** – Chair Kimberly Ryan
 - Meeting this month for website updates

- **Benefits Subcommittee** – Chair Jason Griggs
 - Hank Hughes award nominations form is live and on the website

- **Safety & Security Subcommittee** – Chair Sonny Cherrito
 - Security would not like to be involved with the Safe Ride program, it will need to be student run by Student Life

9:26 am

- **Online Suggestion Box**

- **Submission from 10/23/24:**

1. Issue with birds flying into buildings

Response Summary:

As a valued employee of Florida Tech, your opinions are important for the improvement of our campus and work environment. Please share your suggestion(s) in the text box below. (100 word maximum)Your submission will be anonymous unless you choose to provide contact information so that we can answer a question or provide feedback.

I very often find deceased birds that have run into the windows of campus buildings and it happens far more frequently than you would expect. When I walk on campus in the evenings, I have found birds anywhere from twice a month, to twice a week. Most of the birds I have found have been on the north side of the L3Harris Center for Sci &Eng, and especially on the East-side of Gordon L. Nelson Health Sciences. After Milton, I found 3 dead birds on the alcove in the northeast corner of the building. L3HarrisCommons also frequently experiences birds running into its windows. I'm suggesting that the university look into investing in some kind of prevention (netting?) at least in the areas where it is a common occurrence. It is distressing to see, especially since it is so frequent.

Contact Information (OPTIONAL)

- Facilities will be alerted to get involved with this issue
- We have appearance standards that need to be met when making building adjustments regarding nets

2. Question on excess vacation time

Re: Cash out vacation time

I think there should be an option for those who have over a certain amount of vacation time to be able to cash out a week at least once a year. It would help those either pay for a vacation, pay off bills, or use the funds for holidays, etc.

Contact Information (OPTIONAL)

- Will be brought up to the CFO
- Some companies allow a percentage to be paid out, not the full amount
 - Suggestion that if you have hours over the max rollover, those could be cashed out, or if you have been here over x years
- Feedback that not everyone has a role where they can take a full week vacation

- **Old Business and Follow Up:**

- Kickball – 11/7
 - If rained out it will be moved to 11/14
- United Way Campaign!
 - Has closed, but we do not have numbers yet

- **New Business and Other Items:**

- **Guest Speakers for 2024-2025**
 - Dr. John Nicklow – President
 - 5/14 Confirmed
 - Wes Sumner – External Affairs & Strategic Advisor to the President
 - Spring
 - Kimberly Williams – CFO
 - Spring
 - Allie Biagioni – Events & Protocol
 - ~~Fall~~ Requested to change to January
 - Kevin Cloos – Facilities
 - Fall – December

- Suggestions for speakers
 - Faculty Senate leader
 - Dean of Libraries (they will be returning to after hours events)

9:45 am

Adjourn

Next Full Staff Advisory Council Meeting is Scheduled 12/4/2024