



Staff Senate

Staff Senate Newsletter Fall 2017

President's Report

By: Mark Murphy

The Staff Senate, Celebrating Tens Years!

A little history about the development and formation of the Staff Senate at the University of Scranton. The University Council passed a resolution to setup a committee to look into creating a Staff Senate in 2006. Two faculty members, Dr Gerald Biberman and Dr Thomas Hogan acted as facilitators during the very first meetings. I am very grateful for their wisdom and guidance. They allowed the staff members to find their own direction. The committee chose a chairperson and began work exploring the first and most important question, “Should there be a Staff Senate at the University of Scranton?” The answer was a resounding yes!

“Wow! Ten years! Hard to believe. Seems like yesterday we set it up. I had great expectations for the Staff Senate – and they have been fulfilled. Due to

great leadership over the years and great participation by staff members. Congratulations on the anniversary. Best wishes for the next ten years.”

*Thomas P.
Hogan, Ph.D.*

The committee of staff members reported back to the Governance Council that a Staff Senate was needed and requested the committee be allowed to continue and meet and develop a constitution. The request was approved. Over a number of months, the planning committee met and discussed and debated many details that would become the Staff Senate Constitution. Please go to the Staff Senate website and look over the paragraphs of the constitution. The document is something our staff should be proud of. Back when Meg Cullen-Brown was president, a college in the Philadelphia area contacted the University of Scranton to see how we started our Staff Senate. I recall a conference call with Meg, myself and the college. During this call, we realized the value of our work and were excited that a college from the Philadelphia area wanted to use our Staff Senate as their proto-type.

During detailed discussions, the Staff Senate Constitution and a draft set of By-Laws were developed. Our purpose, “The Staff Senate, a representative body of full-time and part-time staff employees, is organized to assist in the realization of the officially approved objectives of The University of Scranton in accordance with the functions assigned to it by the Board of Trustees: The Staff Senate exists to contribute to the success of The University of Scranton by fully supporting the Mission of the University. As a constituent organization, the Staff Senate, along with the Faculty Senate and Student Senate, operates as a part of the University governance system to provide a forum for open communication and ongoing dialogue among staff and between staff and the administration, faculty, students, and the University community. The Staff Senate shall be a consultative and deliberative body with authority to make

recommendations on matters which have a significant bearing on The University of Scranton. The Staff Senate shall promote the growth and welfare of its staff employees, and a positive and supportive work environment. The Staff Senate, through its elected representatives, shall serve as the official nominating body for staff appointments to committees and task forces as requested. The Staff Senate is not a decision making body with regard to wages and conditions of employment, although it may provide a forum where certain aspects of these items may be discussed for the purpose of making appropriate recommendations.” These details would ultimately become part of the constitution of the University of Scranton Staff Senate.

Our purpose is accurate and we stay true to it through the activities and work endorsed by the Staff Senate. We are part of the governance system of the University and we can and do make recommendations. For the past ten years, we have maintained a level of quality in our work such that when we make a recommendation; it is a very good one.

The constitution was completed by the planning committee on September 19, 2007 and endorsed by the University Council on October 5, 2007 and the Administrators’ Conference October 16, 2007. Final approval was granted by the Board of Trustees on December 12, 2007. After ten years, we just recently made our first change to the constitution. I have to admit after ten years of using the constitution, the planning committee got it right.

The first elections were held in the Spring 2008 per the constitution. The first University of Scranton Staff Senate meeting was held on April 9, 2008. At this meeting the newly formed Staff Senate voted on using the draft By-Laws until a thorough review and acceptance was done by the Staff Senate. Officer positions were elected in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

Three staff senators have held the office of President since the inception of the Staff Senate. They are Mark Murphy, Meg Cullen-Brown and Joseph Wetherell. Our eleventh year, will have Amy Driscoll-McNulty taking the helm as our new Staff Senate president.

Wednesday, December 20, 2017, will mark the 115th session held by the University of Scranton Staff Senate. Today, the Staff Senate is comprised of 33 full and part time staff employees of the University of Scranton.

Staff Senate Committee Updates

Social Events & Community Building
Staff Recognition & Excellence Awards

The Elections and Membership Committee is tasked with filling vacancies on various university committees and coordinating the annual Staff Senate elections. So far this year, the committee has recruited staff members to serve on the Provost Search Committee and the Commencement Speaker Committee. In addition, we have enlisted representation from the three constituent groups (Clerical; Maintenance, Trades, Technical, and Police; and Professional/Paraprofessional) to work with Human Resources on two sections in the Staff and Administrator Handbook; the Corrective Action section and the Staff Complaint Resolution Procedures section. The annual Staff Senate election will kick off at our Meet and Greet event on April 4, 2018. More details about the event, and how to get involved as a senator, will be available early in the spring semester.

Communications committee: Fall Campus Communication Symposium
Held October 26th 2017

The Staff Senate and Human Resources were proud to present the University staff and faculty with its Fall Communication Symposium last month. This event

is held once each semester and aims at “improving campus communications” according to Mark Murphy, president of Staff Senate.

This October, the event featured speakers from the following areas: Study Abroad, Registrar, Associate Provost and Information Technology. You may find the speakers’ bios [here](#). A few highlights from each of their talks is listed below.

Rev. John Sivalon, director of global learning programs and senior adviser for study abroad.

“Looking forward into the future and trying to fill that strategic plan, we thought: Let’s try to make it as easy as possible for faculty to be able to go overseas and run their programs. They will only have to worry about the content of their program. Other people will worry about the structure and all the support services that have to be in place for a faculty member to do that.” – Fr. Sivalon

-According to Institutional Research, 249 students went overseas, 95 from CAS, 93 from PCPS and 54 from KSOM and seven undeclared. Additionally, dozens of students went on summer trips abroad.

-About 70 percent go on faculty-led abroad trips.

-Ideally, we will have four or five sites around the world that faculty can go to in order to teach.

- Study abroad opportunities influence our students’ learning tremendously. Susan, a student who participated in Bolivia trip explained, *“It was a privilege to get to attend this trip. As I look back on my experience, I think of my reflection into the Jesuit ideals -- education not just for the sake of education, but*

education for the sake of for and with others...Getting to talk with people who are from there, listen to their stories and the experiences they have, and getting to ask them, what are their hopes for the future. What can I do? How can I listen?"

Julie Ferguson, registrar.

-The office is the steward of student records, tasked with upholding the integrity of the institution by maintaining a complete and unabridged record of student's academic endeavors, as well as positioned to interpret, enforce and communicate academic and institutional policies to all campus constituencies.

-The office does everything from class scheduling and registration to grade reporting and transcript services. In addition, they transfer credits, develop the academic calendar, along with author policies and more.

-Launched e-transcripts July 31. For more information

<http://www.scranton.edu/academics/registrar/undergraduate/transcript-request.shtml>

-Future goals – to make all applications, student-centric and paperless.

Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D., associate provost.

"I am still very much an academic at heart. I am looking forward to teaching, but what I continue to do is remain heavily engaged in my research and scholarship, which I consider to be the motivating force for me. In fact, every morning from 5-6:30 a.m. is my time spent on those sorts of things...that, to me, is a significant part of being part of being part of a university." – Dr. Ahuja

-Previously worked with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which is the

largest of the six regional accreditors in the U.S. Semi-governmental and semi-independent agencies. One of the significant changes in the 1950s that occurred: The Department of Education made regional accreditors gatekeepers of Title IV. Saw broader picture of higher education.

-How do I see University changing in next five years? As external factors continue to evolve, internal conversations will be had: programmatic, enrollment, student demographic, financial.

Susan Bowen, chief information officer.

-The Division of Information Technology consists of 50 professionals, complemented by a student staff of 25.

- Working on improving communications with the campus community:

- New website to introduce IT's mission and the [different departments](#)

- We have outlined [our services](#)

- Newsletter that comes out twice a semester, *IT Matters*

<http://sites.scranton.edu/itmatters/>

-A system status website regarding planned and unplanned incidences

<http://status.scranton.edu/>

-Quarterly IT Town Hall meeting for YOU to talk to US.

<http://sites.scranton.edu/itmatters/2017/10/24/it-town-hall-meeting-scheduled-for-thursday-november-28-at-1200-p-m/>

-A few projects: technical remediation of security assessment; new IT governance structure; Banner 9 implementation and self service e-advising; new mobile app; Royal Drive; upgrades, plus more.

If you are a staff or faculty member and wish to view the entire symposium,

email Julie Brackeva-Phillips (julie.brackeva-phillips@scranton.edu).

Upcoming Event: Don't Miss it!!!



**The Staff Senate
Welcomes you to a
Christmas Luncheon
Wednesday, December 13, 2017**

(SNOW DATE: Thursday, December 14, 2017)

11:30 am ~ 1:00 pm

Rev. Bernard R. McIlhenny, S.J. Ballroom
The DeNaples Center - 4th Floor

Please bring a donation of:

Travel Sized Toiletries for the **Community Intervention Center**

~50/50 Raffle, Baskets, Door Prizes ~

**This year all proceeds from the sale of the Raffle & 50/50 tickets
will benefit the *Community Intervention Center***

This is a free event for all University Staff employees

PLEASE RSVP by 12/8

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Event: Don't Miss it!!!



Tips for Being Understood: A Communication Workshop for Staff and Faculty

Tuesday, December 12, 2018

11:30am—1:00pm

228 Brennan Hall

Light Lunch will be Served

RSVP by 12/7 chew@scranton.edu

sponsored by The Center For Health Education and Wellness, Human Resources & Staff Development Committee

Volunteer Opportunities

You don't have to be a Senator to get involved! Below is a full list of our Committees that could use your help. [Visit our website](#) and contact a Senator for more details.

Communications

Election and Membership

Finance

Social Events and Community Building

Staff Development

Staff Recognition and Excellence Awards
