

# Staff Senate September Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
UMB Virtual [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 964 2101 0024 Passcode: 036790

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President  
Aaron Graham

Vice President  
Shawnta Privette

Communications Officer  
Elizabeth Main

Secretary  
Tom Hockensmith

Member at Large  
Vacant

Equity & Action Officer  
Nia Speaks

Past President  
Greg Brightbill

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## STAFF SENATORS

Ummay Ammara  
Irene Amoros  
Amanda Barnes  
Michelle Besser (A)  
Greg Brightbill  
Anita Bryant  
Ronald Cisneros (A)  
Justin Codd  
Taylor DeBoer  
Allison Deitz  
Danielle Harris  
Joe Howarth  
Yolanda Langhorne (A)  
Vivian Hill-Lawson  
Sebastian Martinez-Greive (A)  
Latrisha Nkenge  
Mary T. Phelan  
Fiama Romero  
Reese Spindle  
Ray Stolle  
Kelly Ward  
Forjet Williams  
Lei Zhang  
A - Alternate

- **Call to Order -Welcome & Introduction** 12:00 p.m.
- **Senior Leadership Updates** 12:05 p.m.
  - *Office of the President*
  - *Senior Leadership*
- **Approval of July 2023 Meeting Minutes** 12:30 p.m.
- **Executive Committee Updates** 12:35 p.m.

### **New Business**

- **Staff Senate Committee Updates** 12:40 p.m.
  - *Council of University System Staff (CUSS)*
  - *Standing Committees:*

Board of Regents	Community Outreach	Council of University System Staff
Communications	Policy and Legislation	University Life
  - *Ad-Hoc Committees*
    - *Staff Senate Retreat Ad-Hoc Committee*

- **Staff Senator Resources** 1:00 p.m.
  - *Staff Senate Onboarding*
- **Open Forum** 1:30 p.m.
- **Adjournment of Meeting** 2:00 p.m.

*Staff Senate Mission: "We advocate on behalf of UMB staff with regard to University policies and procedures that affect eligible employees; work environment and staff morale; and issues impacting wages, benefits, and working conditions. We also lead many University-wide community outreach activities."*

**Please be advised that this meeting will be recorded for documentation purposes.**

**MINUTES****Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Staff Senate President, Aaron Graham

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Past President  
Christina Fenwick

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Kecia Hitch

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Joe Howarth (A)  
Susan Holt  
Jillian Iffland  
Elizabeth Main

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Shawnta Privette  
Shilpa Shah

Shereece Singleton  
Nia Speaks  
Priti Wakefield

Forjet Williams (A)  
Lakeisha Wilson  
Lei Zhang

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**Attendees**

**Voting Members:** Aaron Graham, Allison Deitz, Danielle Harris, Elizabeth Main (she/her), Fiana Romero, Forjet Williams, Greg Brightbill, Irene Amoros, Joe Howarth, Justin Codd, Kelly Ward, Lei Zhang, Mary Phelan, Nia Speaks (she/her), Raymond Stolle, Reese Spindle, Shawnta Privette, Taylor DeBoer, Tom Hockensmith, Trisha Nkenge, Ummay Ammara, Vivian Lawson, Anita Bryant

**Non-Voting Members:** Michelle Besser, Ronald Cisneros, Yolanda Langhorne

**Auxiliary Members:** N/A

**Guests:** Aisha Samples, Alex Likowski, Andy Lagos, Bruce Jarrell, Cindy Geppi - UMSOM EPH, Dawn Swierczewski, Deborah Stevens, Denise J. Meyer, Heather Pryor, J Doherty, Jill Hamilton, Joanne Pinna, Jon Kucskar, Jordan Lyles, Justin Hanna, Linette Williams, Liyi Wu, Malika Monger- UMB, Marc Lennon, McKinley Keegan, Melanie Moore, Nancy Gordon, N Gilliam, Patricia Hoffman, Sam Janack, Tim Casey

**Absent Members:** Fiana Romero

**Establish Quorum (50% +1= 13 voting members): Quorum is achieved at 22 voting members**

**Welcome and Leadership Updates****Aaron Graham**

- Welcomed senators, presenters, guests, and constituents

**Dr. Bruce Jarrell**

- Next week is Convocation.
- Planning – Founder’s Week event
  - Late October or November
  - 10/19/2023 @ 4:30PM
  - Staff awards will be presented.
  - At M&T Pavilion, new area.
- Summer spent with Government Officials
  - Focus on UMB Priorities and requests for funding.
  - Estimate for state shortfall in revenue.
- Governor visited in May
  - Discussed School Program and Eutaw Initiative
  - Eutaw Initiative is UMB’s city vibrant community initiative
    - Downtown building occupancy is below 80%.
- Return to Work report.
  - Not a typical report but rather a series of recommendations
  - Town Halls planned to discuss.

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- Delicate balance and more will be forthcoming.
- Staff Luncheon
  - Monday 10/16/23
  - Registration coming in the following week
- Event 10/17/23 to visit “UMB’s Hidden Treasures”
  - 10am-2pm

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**Malika Monger**

- Future of Work
  - Committee worked very hard
  - Comprised of 30 members
  - Currently presentation of data / report to Deans & VPs
  - Townhalls are forthcoming
    - 3 upcoming and to be announced shortly
- Recruitment & Hiring Process and Policy Projects
  - Areas of concerns and upcoming projects to review and assess current policies, procedures and best practices
  - Span next 9 – 12 months
- HR Lunch and Learn Series
  - To address the Areas with most questions
  - Link in Chat
  - <https://www.umaryland.edu/hrs/current-employees/organization-and-employee-development/employee-development-and-learning/>
- Awarded Healthiest Maryland’s Business Exemplar Award for 2023
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row
  - Businesses that promote a culture of health.
- Question about “Employee Handbook”
  - This has been migrated to the Policy and Procedures library as this is the best and most current data.

**Approval of July 2022 Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Aaron Graham 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Hockensmith
- Motion passed Unanimously

**Executive Committee Updates**

- Elizabeth Main
  - Campus Cleanup event
    - 10/11/23.
    - Please sign up to assist.
    - Being advertised in ELM.

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**Staff Senate Committee Updates (Taylor DeBoer)****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**President  
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- Emails being out
  - Not all staff senators received.
  - Taylor will be working on getting this resolved
  - Committees should be meeting regularly
- Community Outreach
  - Back to school drive is live
  - Receive email with link to Drive
  - link to donate to back to school drive:  
<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/38375/donations/new>
  - Share with departments if possible.
- CUSS - Vivian
  - No Current updates
- Board of Regents - Alison unavailable (Trisha Nkenge updates - co-chairs)
  - Nomination form
  - Meeting next week to get letter sent to Deans, etc
- Policy and Legislation
  - Joe Howarth (Chair)
  - Fiana Co-Chair
  - Updating ByLaws & Combining with Handbook
  - Meeting in October
- Communications
  - First meeting a week ago
  - Working on Newsletter and Spotlights
  - Get up to speed
- University Life - Ray Stolle
  - August 2
  - Housekeeping / learning
  - Reviewed past events
  - Communications, etc
  - CoChair with Reese
- Public Servant Awards Committee
  - Irene
  - Thank Committee

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- Staff Senate Liaison Updates:
  - Any updates?
  - Greg Brightbill
    - Middle States
      - Fall Town Halls
      - <https://elm.umaryland.edu/announcements/2023/Save-the-Dates-Middle-States-Town-Halls-in-October-and-November.php>
      - In Person Events
      - Please participate.
  - Mary Phelan
    - Transportation Workgroup
      - Thank you for completing survey
  - Lei Zhang
    - Faculty Senate
      - Monthly not quarterly
  - Justin Codd
    - Enterprise Risk Management
      - Met with Victoria
  - Amanda Barnes
    - USGA
      - Meeting next week
      - Joint meeting
        - Discuss with Exec Board
- Ad-hoc Committees
  - Retreat committee
    - November Hold
      - Cancelling hold
      - In Person meeting 11/2/23
      - Retreat invite for Spring

#### Staff Senator Resources

- Onboarding
  - Email 8/25/23
  - Complete by 9/13/23
  - Mandatory for both new and returning senators

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**Open Forum**

- In Person Meetings
  - Not a voting issue
  - President sets up meetings
  - Virtual
    - Increased engagement
    - UMB is not a one site campus...
  - InPerson (Taylor's comments)
    - Hybrid format?
    - Equity issue
    - Additional "in person" activities
  - Forjet
    - (Shady Grove)
  - JCodd
    - Telework
- No additional topics

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**Adjournment of Meeting (@ 1:12PM)**A motion to adjourn the meeting 1<sup>st</sup> by Greg Brightbill, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Irene Amoros.**Next Meeting – October 5, 2023, 12noon – 2:00 p.m. via UMB Zoom**

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hockensmith, Staff Senate Secretary

Minutes Status: Approved

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