Senate Meeting Notes
July 21st 2021
12:00 – 1:30pm Zoom
Open Meeting

Attendance:
1. Alyana Ladha
2. Andree Entezari
3. Blake Ferris
4. Eric Delgizzo
5. Jackie Bowes
6. Kaitlyn Grevera
7. Laura Badgett
8. Lyse Fedjanie Barronville
9. Mahogany Price
10. Maria Bakas
11. Maria Costa
12. Nick Gooler
13. Shelley Barne

Excused absences:
1. Lunise Joseph
2. Ahmad Yassine

Non-Senate Members:
Ryann Monteiro

Approval of last month’s meeting minutes: Yes approved by Jackie and Andree

ACTION ITEMS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN BOLDED BLUE

AGENDA ITEM 1: First Gen Mentor Program - Ryann Monteiro
- Graduate Student Life is launching a First Gen Program
- GSL is recruiting faculty and staff members who are interested in being mentors
  - Mentors should also be First Gen (first in their lineage to attend a graduate level program or professional studies/certificate)
  - Mentors are matched with a “Pod” based on their professional qualifications and mentee needs/wants. “Pods”: 3-4 students
  - Mentors are responsible for conducting monthly “Pod” meetings
  - GLS is offering training to Mentors
  - The purpose is to help students to create their own definition of success and mentors are asked to help facilitate, navigate, and further these goals
  - There will be mentor check ins with GSL
  - Info sessions for potential mentors will be announced shortly
  - Contact Ryan Monteiro if interested - ryannmon@bu.edu
  - Link to Fist Gen Mentor Program

AGENDA ITEM 2: Staff Handbook Updates - Nick Gooler
- Checking with Vanessa about deadlines for any updates to the handbook
- Need to add sections about subcommittees
- Meet with your subcommittee and discuss sections pertinent to your group - bring comments and changes to Nick Gooler (deadline dependent we can use Senate Meeting time to discuss)
- Staff Handbook
AGENDA ITEM 3: Governing and Admin Council Updates - Nick Gooler

- GC: Discussion on gender equity in the workplace and updates from Department Chairs
- AC: Finalizing remote/flexible work policy, merit increases, staff mentorship program, and the Think/Teach/Do awards
  - Please complete the Staff Mentorship Survey
  - New Awards and Recognition Program

AGENDA ITEM 4: Subcommittee Check-ins

- Staff Survey
  - Communicated with the other subcommittee to make proposed changes to next year’s staff survey
  - Made additions to the survey questions and shared with Vanessa - they will decide what is actually included in the Final Survey
- Staff/Faculty Relations
  - Main focus is working with Alana Brennan, Kevin Lane, and Lora Sabin to lead a panel for the annual school retreat
    - 3 moderators
    - 4 panel members
    - Idea is to focus on creating an inclusive work environment
- Awards and Recognition
  - Discussed how to get more Senate involvement/sent questions to Andree for the Survey to help with this goal
  - Working with SPH Comms to create a Senate highlight and use this to get more involvement from the Staff Community. Can also be used to get more engagement in the Awards and Recognition Program for Staff
    - This could include a resources page for staff: FSAO, Ombudsman, etc.
    - Contact Moe if interested in working with this group
- PDAT
  - Determine what PD looks like during the next academic year - contingent on funding for trainings and development opportunities
    - Need to chat with Ira
    - Will report back at the next Senate Meeting
- Communications
  - Want to create a calendar of event for regular and important dates for the Senate

AGENDA ITEM 5: Any other business

- Is there a way to use the Senate Meeting more for discussion and less working only in our siloed subcommittees?
- Entertain the idea of meeting earlier in the month if the handbook deadline is sooner rather than later
- Let Moe if you are interested in participating in Student Orientation (either SPH Reads book talk or campus tours)
  - Link for book talk participation