

**2024-2025 Administrative & Professional Staff Council**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 2025**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Teams meeting**

**I. Call to Order**

The January meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Bryson.

**II. Roll Call and Announcement of Proxies**

Members Present: Lilia Angel-Post, Tena Bennett, Todd Bryson, Amy Eaton, Jeff Franklin, Caleb Hale, Carly Holtkamp, Peter Lucas, Rita Medina, Laura Morgan, Josi Rawls, Elyse Weller, Jasmine Winters

Members Absent with Proxy: Rachel Frazier (Proxy E. Weller), Layla Murphy (Proxy Carly Holtkamp)

Guest: Alexander Rodriguez, Melissa Laake

**III. Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

Motion: E. Weller

Second: J. Rawls

The minutes from 12/18/24 were approved as presented.

**IV. Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

An addendum to the agenda was made by T. Bryson (add guest speaker, Alexander Rodriguez, to Section V).

Motion: J. Winters

Second: C. Hale

The addendum to the agenda was approved as presented.

**V. Guest Speaker: Alexander Rodriguez, Hispanic-Latino Resource Center Coordinator**

T. Bryson asked Alex to join the meeting due to recent situations going on nationally. A. Rodriguez stated some of the concerns are with the immigration status for many students and their families. One of the things that we started experiencing is students coming into CAPS and the Student Multicultural Resource Center to either talk about their status or talk about their families. We have students that broke down because they don't know what's going to happen. One of the things that we talked with CAPS is to be a support system for the students. You can refer them to CAPS or to us and you can educate yourself on what is going on. President Trump has basically said I can go into churches and to schools. So, a lot of our students are really in fear, not just for themselves, but also for their families. One of the things that we have to do is come together as one force and just be there for our students just overall, because of the fact that they don't know if their parents will get deported. So, what plans do they have in place? How are we going to support them? Stay up to date. I'm going to provide two main websites on what's going on at the moment and what kind of rights they have: [immigrantsrising.org](https://immigrantsrising.org) and [immigrationproject.org](https://immigrationproject.org). If you have any students that are undocumented or basically our DACA students, even just international students, you can refer them to us. We have some students that are trying to adjust to the situation. There are many that are already in fear, are panicking and have anxiety. If you have any questions with anything, you are more than welcome to give me a call or just reach out via e-mail. I've been working with Brock and Steven from CAPS. They also said if you have any students you know to refer them to them. We also have been working with the Black Resource Center and LGBTQ Resource Center.

R. Medina asked if Lori Bryant is doing anything in particular with student legal assistance. A. Rodriguez stated he was not sure but will reach out to her. C. Hale stated one question that may come up is whether the federal student financial aid information is going to expose either themselves or their family members. Is there any guidance on that? A. Rodriguez stated he would reach out to Financial Aid. E. Weller stated the information that the student provides is 100% protected on their FAFSA, but students that have already filled out a FAFSA in previous years the Department of Education already has that information. Students going forward - we tell the student that they have to do what's best for them in their situation. We can't tell them to fill it out or not fill it out. Whatever you feel is best for you. We're not going to give up that information without it being court ordered. But if they subpoena that information, (we are under Title 4, we are under a contract) we have to give that information. L. Angel-Post stated I am part of the Hispanic Staff Council, and we did talk to Chancellor Lane about this a few weeks back. He reminded us that both the state of Illinois and SIU, as a university, we allow students to register when they're undocumented, and then we will keep that private information because both the state and the university allows that policy. I work with international students and a few of them asked what does this mean to me? I told them to maybe carry a copy of their visa, so that if they are stopped on the street or anywhere, they can prove that they're here legally. R. Medina stated to keep in mind the deadlines for withdrawing if students do come across an issue of their families being deported and may need to go home quickly or make sudden changes. R. Rawls stated that R. Frazier messaged her stating that a student could have a retroactive withdraw as long as they had paperwork supporting if they were deported or for whatever reason, had to go back because of an unofficial order, as long as they have that paperwork that she would give them a retroactive withdrawal. T. Bennett stated there will be some mental health first aid trainings for faculty and staff coming out. P. Lucas stated our role is to support our students, but we are not to take an official position on behalf of the university. John Charles is working on that. T. Bryson stated all the federal employees who are a part of DEI have been removed from their positions but are on paid leave as of today.

## **VI. Reports**

**A. Chair-** System wide Training on Campus this Friday at 10:15 a.m. – Empowerment, Motivation & Leading Without a Title

T. Bryson stated there will be one more date for training for the rest of the semester. If you can, please sign up.

**B. Representatives to University Committees** – (no report)

**C. Committee Appointments**

**1. Committee on Committees** – T. Bryson stated we were asked to provide two names for the Staff Excellence Award Committee. Sarah Jiter & Kent Epplin were nominated to serve.

**2. Constituency Relations** – J. Winters stated they are planning to meet next Tuesday to start discussing the luncheon. I spoke with Laura about the funding we have and whether we want to use some of that towards staff benefit (recognition awards, etc.)

**3. Operating Paper** – T. Bryson stated he and J. Franklin will schedule a meeting.

**4. Staff Benefits & Welfare** – L. Morgan stated they are researching other institutions to see what kind of appreciation type things they do for their staff. We're trying to find a balance between monetary and non-monetary things.

**VII. Old Business** – (none)

**VIII. New Business** – L. Morgan stated students are still trying to register. E. Weller stated they have two front line workers, and last week they received 1,200 phone calls and had over 340 students come to the office. We are trying to get people hired. Yesterday, there were still 40 students that came in. J. Rawls stated in Admissions we have a position posted that we are interviewing for this week. It's for a field rep. position in Memphis. One of our staff members is

resigning, so we should have another position posted for an in-office staff person. J. Rawls also stated the Southern Illinois Saluki Takeover Tour is in April, and the Chancellor Scholarship check presentations will be the first week of February. (During the meeting, it was announced by J. Rawls that the Communication building was evacuated due to a small fire.) C. Hale stated the 50<sup>th</sup> Cardboard Boat Regatta and the Saluki Ball will be on April 26, 2025. The ball will be in the Student Center. The Saluki Market (on the Shopify platform) is for alumni, students, and friends of the university who have items to sell. We are trying to support it on our end with funding it through sponsorships. C. Hale stated they have 2025 wall calendars available for free. You can get one at the Alumni Office. The next alumni pop up shop is going to happen this week. R. Medina stated an issue with the health service holds. L. Morgan stated probably the quickest way to get a hold lifted is to make an account on Verify Vax Illinois (if they're an IL resident), see all their vaccinations and put that in their health portal. T. Bryson stated from the housing standpoint, we currently have 176 students who lived with us last semester who are not registered. Twenty-nine of those are academically suspended. I went to the dining halls and looked at the not registered list, and 63 students are still on campus. Their meals plans have been turned off, and they have to leave by Friday. J. Winters stated the Registrar's Office has implemented a policy that after the second week of classes they are not allowing students to register for classes. It has to be an extenuating circumstance to what they're willing to consider. R. Medina posted in the chat the extenuating circumstances that they will be allowing.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Motion: J. Winters

Second: J. Rawls