

Exempt Staff Council

July 17, 2024

Held via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: Members of the council continued working toward building out bylaws for the forthcoming representative model of a Staff Senate.

Bylaws: Chairs of the Exempt Staff Council & Employee Relations Committee have been holding regular meetings to begin generating initial drafts of the new Staff Senate bylaws. Susan Lazenby shared a working document with the council, that has not been submitted for review to campus leadership. These were drafted through weeks of involving research partners in OPEIR to determine how peer-institutions, including UT Health Science Center, maximize clarity & efficacy through this full staff representative model. The chairs of both the ESC & ERC will be meeting with members of campus administration to review working drafts before formal submission. Topics at top of mind for these meetings will be compensation for participation on the new Staff Senate, feasibility of a non-exempt standing committee to ensure professional integrity, the impact upon currently underrepresented groups on campus, etc.

While reviewing the document, members identified opportunities to improve clarity of language in the draft bylaws, as well as determined how this model would move away from “representative groups” in their current form. Right now, each member of the ESC & ERC represents between 20-100 staff among their respective divisions of campus. This new model, as the bylaws will indicate upon further draft, review, and approval, will involve an Executive Committee that will be elected by all members of staff, both exempt & non-exempt. The composition of the Executive Committee will include a President, Secretary, Non-Exempt Committee Chair, & others to be determined, who will obtain voting power on various projects, initiatives, and concerns brought forth by the new representative body. Regular meetings (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly) of the Staff Senate will be open to all members of UTC staff, and campus leadership will attend to offer updates and feedback regarding ongoing projects & initiatives.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 2024