

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Bert Wagner, President, at 10:05 a.m.
Roll was called by Diann Brodnax, Secretary. A quorum was present.

Members present: Bert Wagner, Stacie Granger, Dimples Jones, Diann Brodnax, Mandy Arceneaux, Donavon Barbarisi, Quentin Bellard, Blaire Brevell, Greg Dowell, Hector Flores, Madison Franco, Christina Gengo, Ashley Glenn, Paula Gregory, Alicia Hargreaves, Charlotte Holliman, Margo Hymer, Johnny Jarrell, Yinka Jenmy, Chrissy Jones, Karen Kessinger, Cynthia Ksiazek, Sherika King-Lowe, Sharon Mistrot, Alex Monceaux, Yolanda Monroe, Candice Moore, Natalie Rhodes, JT Roberson, Sharon Sanders, Tina Siau, Brent Sonnier, Ciera Vaidya, Julie Walker, Jon-Michael Wallace, and Melaney Whiting.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Judith Mann, Tina Rich and April Boggs – LU Strong Program

LU Strong is a program helping students that were impacted from Harvey storm. Students, if eligible, may receive funds to help with tuition, mental health sessions, food, clothing, technology, and other needs. Staff that are attending classes are eligible to apply for assistance. LU Strong staff are committed to helping as much as possible. Students are given resources and support whether they are eligible for funds or not. Dr. Mann asked that Council members help get the word out to those impacted to contact LU Strong for assistance. For those impacted from Imelda storm would need to contact the Cardinal Emergency Fund for assistance. A handout was provided with more information.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Staff Council Officers met with the LU Executives in September.

- The Executives were given an update of the upcoming Staff Awards Ceremony.
- The N.E.S.T. Holiday Project was discussed, and Staff Council received approval to move forward with the project. The project will be tied to the Annual President's Holiday Breakfast.
- Dr. Evans asked that Staff Council work with Faculty Senate to jazz up the Staff Appreciation Luncheon for April 2020.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for Council members to sign up for committee work.

Community Service: No report.

Staff Awards Ceremony:

- November 6, 2019 – Staff Awards Ceremony – 3:30 – 5:00 pm 8th floor Library
- This year lapel pins will be replaced with portfolios.
- All service award recipients will receive a glass award instead of framed certificates.
- Light finger desserts will be provided at the reception.
- A sign-up sheet was provided for volunteers to help the day of the ceremony. Those volunteering will need to attend the ceremony rehearsal and wear Staff Council polo or red shirt with nice slacks/skirts.
- Refer to Staff Awards Ceremony handout for more updates.

Staff Social Events:

- The committee will meet to discuss ideas to jazz up the Staff Appreciation Luncheon in April 2020.

Student Success: No report.

Communications: No report.

Staff Relations: No report.

Nominations: No report.

Nominations Drive: No report.

Bylaws Committee: No report.

Unfinished Business:

- Diann Brodnax, Secretary/Past President, stated a requisition for Staff Council shirts had been submitted. A target date of November 1, 2019 was given to Classic Forms to receive the shirts.

New Business:

Bert Wagner discussed the following Staff Council business:

The Staff Council Suggestion Box received a few suggestions/questions.

- Issue - Parking Lot G-3 – employees are not able to park in this lot closest to the front of the building due to student's vehicles occupying parking spaces as visitors and when it rains, employees must walk through high water. *Lot G-3 has been reviewed/approved by Executives as visitor only parking due to the high number of prospective students and visitor attending events held by Foundation, Advancement and Alumni Affairs in JGC 'A' and 'B'.*
- Issue – Can we work four 10-hour days, so we do not have to use Comp Days or Vacation Days to have off on Friday. *Cathy Benson, HR explained that working four 10-hour days during Spring Break Week would allow an employee to gain credit towards Comp Time so taking Friday off without using vacation days is possible. This falls under the discretion that Supervisors must adjust hours worked by employees they oversee.*

Good of the Order:

- Division of Global Diversity, Inclusion and Intercultural Affairs will host Day of the Dead – October 31, 2019 5pm – 10 pm, Dining Hall Lawn.
- Campus Wheelchair Basketball Tournament will be held October 9th and 10th, 2019 2pm-6pm, Rec Center Basketball Courts.
- Bert provided a handout, Rethinking Stress. The article was written by LU alumna Bethany Aiena. Please share with your co-workers.
- Tina Siau, Council Member, shared information about Cardinal Communities and asked Council members to consider volunteering. Volunteers receive a stipend. Contact Celine Hodge for more information.
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The next Staff Council meeting will be November 12, 2019 in John Gray Center, Mason Room.

Julie Walker moved to adjourn the meeting and Sherika King-Lowe seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diann Brodnax

Diann Brodnax, Staff Council Secretary

LU Strong Program



Are you an LU student experiencing hardship as a result of the impact caused by **Hurricane Harvey**?

- Housing and/or vehicle issues
- Hunger
- Mental health challenges
- Lack of books, clothes, etc.
- Income loss
- Difficulty paying for tuition
- Unable to pay bills
- Unable to pay for child care

The **LU Strong Program for Hurricane Harvey Assistance** at Lamar University provides financial assistance and/or resources to LU students personally affected by Hurricane Harvey, with a priority for those with the greatest need.

This fund provides support for currently enrolled or accepted students who have exhausted all other resources. LU Strong funds or resources do not have to be repaid.

The LU Strong Program is funded by generous grants from the United States Department of Education, the Rebuild Texas Fund, and the Qatar Harvey Fund.

Current Students

For **Current Students enrolled** in a degree or credential program for at least 3 credit hours (undergraduate or graduate level) during your first semester of program participation.

Accepted Students

For **Accepted Students entering LU in the upcoming semester** enrolled in a degree or credential program for at least 3 credit hours (undergraduate or graduate level) during your first semester of program participation.

Eligibility for Funds and Resources

To be eligible for **LU Strong** assistance, you must:

- Be a **current LU student**, or an **accepted student entering LU in the upcoming semester**, enrolled in a degree or credential program for at least 3 credit hours (undergraduate or graduate level) during your first semester of program participation.
- Have a financial hardship that has been caused directly by the impact of Hurricane Harvey.
- Be in good student conduct standing.
- Have used all current awarded financial aid.
- Have a completed **FAFSA application** on file with the **LU Office of Financial Aid**.
- Complete all questions on the application and provide supporting documentation.

Expenses Eligible for Coverage by the LU Strong Program

Funding and resources include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency or temporary housing expenses (homelessness)
- Food
- Essential utilities (electric, gas, water, etc.)
- Mental health expenses and support for on-campus services
- On-campus resiliency workshops
- Tuition
- Academic supplies (books, technology, etc.)
- Essential personal belongings damaged or lost due to Harvey (clothing, etc.)
- Other expenditures that would otherwise prevent continued enrollment

Application Process

1. **Submit an online application.** The LU Strong office will gather and review the necessary information from each applicant.
2. You will be contacted by a Case Manager to complete an intake review and complete an individualized support plan.
3. Any financial support will be made by a selection committee appointed by the Dean of Students.
4. You will be notified via email of the decision pertaining to your request for funds, typically within 2-3 business days.
5. Campus Emergency Funds will be credited to your student account. If you have balances owed to the university, you will still be eligible to have these funds.

Other Support for Students

If you are an LU enrolled student who is experiencing these types of difficulties (homelessness, food insecurity, etc.) and you were **not** directly impacted by Hurricane Harvey, please complete the **LU CARE form**.