Lamar University Staff Council Meeting
November 12, 2019
John Gray Center, Elvis Mason Room

Minutes

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

Members present: Bert Wagner, Donavon Barbarisi, Blaire Brevell, Greg Dowell, Madison Franco, Ashley Glenn, Alicia Hargreaves, Margo Hymer, Johnny Jarrell, Yinka Jenmy, Karen Kessinger, Cynthia Ksiazek, Sherika King-Lowe, Natalie Rhodes, JT Roberson, Tina Siau, Jonatham Tippett, Ciera Vaidya, Julie Walker, Lita Wells, and Melaney Whiting.

Guest Speakers

Celine Hodge – Cardinal Communities

Cardinal Communities are learning communities for freshman or transfer students intended to support students as they transition into Lamar University. Community members are led by a faculty/staff mentor and student peer mentors who are upperclassmen. Students in communities take one or more courses together, interact our side of the classroom at least once per week, and are grouped together according to a major (i.e. History) or a common interest (i.e. Movies).

Faculty/Staff members can select a topic that interests them and host a community of students who have similar interests. Send questions to Celine Hodge or email cardinal.lead@lamar.edu.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: No report.
Community Service: No report.
Staff Awards Ceremony:

- The November 6, 2019 – Staff Awards Ceremony was a successful event.
- Several attendees, to include our executives, said the event went well.
- All service award recipients received a glass award and a padfolio honoring their service.
- Of Note: We will plan to communicate more aggressively with retirees, DSA nominees, and service award recipients next year in a effort to increase participation.

Staff Social Events: No report
Student Success: No report.
Communications: No report.
Staff Relations: No report.
Nominations: No report.
Nominations Drive: No report.
Bylaws Committee: No report.

Unfinished Business:

- Remaining Staff Council shirts were distributed to members in attendance.

New Business:

- The Lamar University Holiday Breakfast is scheduled for December 5th, 2019. Staff Council members will receive additional information about the event and our project to provide books for the NEST Program via email.

Good of the Order:

- Bert Wagner distributed a safety related handout on Winter Driving Tips.

The next Staff Council meeting will be December 10, 2019 in John Gray Center, Mason Room.

Sherika King-Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting and Tina Siau seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert Wagner

Bert Wagner, Staff Council President

Winter Driving Tips

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for travelers. Winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Drivers should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. AAA urges drivers to be cautious while driving in adverse weather.

AAA recommends the following tips while driving in snowy and icy conditions:

Cold Weather Driving Tips

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

Tips for Driving in the Snow

- **Stay home**. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- **Drive slowly**. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- **Accelerate and decelerate slowly**. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- **Increase your following distance** to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- **Know your brakes**. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/#.XcnNzDNKiUk

- **Don't stop if you can avoid it**. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- **Don't power up hills**. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- **Don't stop going up a hill**. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Tips for Long-Distance Winter Trips

- **Be Prepared**: Have your vehicle checked by a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility before hitting the road.
- **Check the Weather:** Check the weather along your route and when possible, delay your trip if bad weather is expected.
- **Stay Connected:** Before hitting the road, notify others and let them know your route, destination and estimated time of arrival.
- If you get stuck in the snow:
    - **Stay with your vehicle**: Your vehicle provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Do not try to walk in a severe storm. It is easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
    - **Don't over exert yourself:** When digging out your vehicle, listen to your body and stop if you become tired.
    - **Be Visible:** Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna of your vehicle or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
    - **Clear the Exhaust Pipe:** Make sure the exhaust pipe is not clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment of the vehicle while the engine is running.
    - **Stay Warm:** Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers or paper maps. Pre-pack blankets and heavy clothing to use in case of an emergency.
    - **Conserve Fuel:** If possible, only run the engine and heater long enough to remove the chill. This will help to conserve fuel.

https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/#.XcnNzDNKiUk

ROAD TRIP

Travel Tips

If you and your family plan to hit the open road this year, check out these tips for a safe and enjoyable journey.

CAR MAINTENANCE

TECHNICIAN
Consider having your car checked by a technician before a long trip.

TIRES
Check tires monthly for tread wear. Make sure all tires (including the spare, are properly inflated.

COOLANT
Check the coolant level and condition, making certain the proper 50/50 mixture of water and coolant is present.

OIL
Check the level and condition of the engine oil. The owner's manual will have specific recommendations.

BELTS & HOSES
Look for worn, cracked, blistered or soft belts and hoses. Always perform this check with the engine off.

BATTERY
Hot weather can shorten the life of a battery. You can have it tested by a qualified technician.

TRAVEL PLANNING

EMERGENCY KIT
Carry an emergency kit with a flashlight, batteries, warning devices (such as flares or reflctive triangles), jumper cables, a first-aid kit and extra water.

FUEL
Don't let the gas level get below one-quarter of a tank.

ROUTE-PLANNING
Use the AAA Mobile App to plan your route ahead of time. Make stops every 100 miles or 2 hours to avoid drowsy or fatigued driving.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Reserve all accommodations in advance, but be flexible if you need to stop an extra night due to traffic, fatigue or change of plans.

SECURITY
Lock your car when you leave it, and keep your valuables out of sight.

SAFETY
Secure children and adults in car seats, booster seats or seat belts.

ENTERNAINMENT
Bring books, games or music for the ride.

INFORMATION
Bring information on your desitination to make the most of your trip.

For more driving and travel safety tips, visit **Exchange.AAA.com**

Need help with these car maintenance tips?
Visit **aaa.com/repair** to locate a repair shop in your area.