



Staff Assembly General Meeting Minutes October 15, 2020 via Zoom

Board Members:

- **President:** Yesenia Curiel
- **Past President:** Priya Lakireddy
- **Vice President:** Alvin Cha
- **Finance Officer:** Lorena Magana-Aguilar & Vanessa Hauser
- **Secretary:** Ian Cooke
- **Co-Chair of Programs and Events:** Teresa Campos
- **Co-Chair of Programs and Events:** Ashley Summerset
- **Co-Chair of Communications:** Brenda Rojas
- **Co-Chair of Communications:** Austyn Smith

I. Welcome - President Curiel called the meeting to order at 9:03

II. Staff Assembly Executive Board Updates:

- Jay Lomeli-Open Enrollment
 - Open enrollment until the 24th of November
 - Benefits workshops to help understand medical plans
 - 1:1 Call-in sessions for specific questions-available until the 24th
 - Online benefits fair including webinars for different plans and providers
 - New benefits will take place on Jan 1st 2020.
 - New health spending account “discovery benefits” will be the new plan provider instead of Wage Works. The unused FSA will carry over to the next plan.
 - Average increase will be about \$10.50
- President Curiel informed staff of the following:
 - Meeting with the Chancellor Discussion
 - We will have a semester meeting to do check-ins and collaborations for us to work on.
 - Communicate to the chancellor the morale, communication is important. Being transparent is very helpful for staff to be better prepared.
 - We are now coordinating town halls to be inform the staff
 - If you have any questions please email staffassembly@ucmerced.edu
 - Staff Assembly is part of the advisory board for Strategic Planning. We will be updating you all after the meeting in January.

- Vice President-Alvin Cha informed staff of the following:
 - Leadership Chat discussion
 - Recording of the event will be on Staff Assembly webpage if you missed the meeting.
 - Andy was very thorough and answered all questions
 - Specific topics he discussed:
 - Testing locations. Bringing testing location to campus for staff instead of Castle.
 - Town Hall discussion
 - Scheduled every other week from 11-12 and are listed in the Staff Assembly newsletter and Monday memos.
 - Encourage staff to submit any questions or comments
 - These town halls are not hosted by Staff Assembly.
 - We are asking to record the meetings, but we are not hosting.
 - UC Merced October 2020 COVID-19 Experience Survey Dashboard [Survey here.](#)
 - Results of the poll regarding COVID-19
 - This is the second survey that was conducted. The first was in October.
- Secretary- Ian Cooke informed the staff of the following:
 - VCDFA search committee meeting underway. The search will take until approx. end of March
 - \$1000 reimbursement for child care as an essential worker [information here.](#)
- Finance Officer – Lorena Magana-Aguilar & Vanessa Hauser informed staff of the following:
 - Awards for Staff Assembly contest was delivered. There was a delay due to COVID but all recipients have received their awards.
 - Moment of Silence for Rita Guel.
- Programs and Events Co-Chairs – Teresa Campos and Ashley Summerset informed the staff of the following:
 - Update on Costume Contest. Congratulations to all winners of the Halloween costume contest. They will receive a gift card for the win.
 - Fall'in in love with your workspace. New contest for this holiday season. It does not have to be Fall inspired.
 - Sending cookies to departments that have staff on campus to say thank you for all the work they are putting in.
 - Announcement of December contest will go out in the next newsletter. It will be a Door decorating contest.
- Communications Co-Chairs-Brenda Rojas and Austyn Smith informed the staff of the following:

- Reminder of due dates for submission to newsletter, please send staff assembly email by December 1st.
 - Past President-Priya Lakireddy informed the staff of the following:
 - We have come a long way in Staff Assembly participation. We love the participation, please email us if you have any questions or comments.
 - The regents meeting is currently going on. Their first meeting was recorded and you can find on the website. They discussed furlough at the last meeting.
 - Thank you to Alvin and Yesenia for providing an anonymous link for the town hall questions. Please keep asking those questions and hopefully senior leadership will provide an update.
 - EAP offers 3 free sessions every 6 months. Highly recommend taking advantage of this program.
 - Informational Items:
 - Are there any particular groups that you would like to speak at our staff assembly meetings? Any recommendations for Staff Assembly. Please email Staff Assembly.
 - ECEC meeting regarding the privatization of the program. Any comments, suggestions or ideas you would like us to bring up.
 - Meeting participant stated there was hurt and confusion because they were not transparent. They do not know how far along the talks are regarding privatization.
 - Faculty and graduate students will be sending a letter or memo to the Chancellor, and staff should consider doing the same
 - Two items from CACSW:
 - The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (CACSW) is asking for nominations on behalf of womxn who are essential workers, who have gone above and beyond for their colleagues, or who could simply benefit from a heartfelt gesture. Nominations can be submitted for any UC Merced faculty, staff or student.
<https://cacsw.ucmerced.edu/form/random-acts-kindness-nomination-form>
2. Womxn in the Spotlight, Dr. Thelma Hurd. Thursday, December 3, 2020 - Noon-1:00pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 833 5413 3353 PW: CACSW
To register and submit your questions to Dr. Hurd, visit <https://bit.ly/cacsw20>

Next General Meeting: December 17, 2020 at 9am

Meeting Adjourned at 9:46 am