



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for October 2024

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024	Time: 10:00 AM	Location: ULIB 622 Zoom for Guests
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Attendees	<p>Senators Present: Shane Dykes, Chance Eppinette, Michael Gammon, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall, Andrew Hardee, Caitlyn Hillard, Jennifer Huey, Sabrina McClain, Dana Mejia, Danielle Tolbird, Wesley Welch</p>	<p>Senators Excused: James Beinkemper, Erick Burton</p> <p>Senators Absent: Medria Buford</p> <p>Visitors: Leigh Hersey, Sara Webb, Grant Saulters, Melissa Rhodes, Natalya Van, Ayusha Gupta, Joanna Hunter, Lauren Weatherford, Sidney Jones, Allison Thompson, Karin Ryan, Nikki May, Brishauna Scurfield, Audrey Blackburn</p>
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Call to Order

- October 2024 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Mejia at 10:04 am.
- Roll taken by Secretary Welch.
- Visitors welcomed by President Mejia.

Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by Senator Welch to approve the Minutes of the September meeting. Seconded by Senator Huey. Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.

Guest Speaker(s)

Dr. Leigh Hersey, Associate Professor, School of Behavioral & Social Sciences and Representative for United Way

Reports of Committees

- **Communications**-Working on ideas for Staff Senate’s Facebook page which includes Senator bios. Past President Hardee will get the new Committee members access.
- **Constitution & Bylaws**- Nothing to report.
- **Elections**-Nothing to report.
- **Staff Welfare & Handbook**-Nothing to report.
- **Past President**-Nothing to report.

Continuing Business

- **United Way Campaign**
 - Dr. Hersey discussed the United Way campaign.
 - The campaign began Oct. 15th.

- o United Way helps future and current students prepare academically and financially for college.
- o UW helps people find jobs in the community including non-students. They work with community members who need the extra help.
- o Dr. Hersey works with a lot of the non-profit partners of United Way.
- o Anyone can call the 211 number to get more information on what organizations may be helpful to them. This services the entire state except for New Orleans and Baton Rouge.
- o There were only 58 donors last year and hope to increase this number this year, but the donation amounts were higher.
- o Dr. Hersey shared United Way donation forms but also stated that you can sign up on United Way's website.
- o Ice Cream Social for Staff Appreciation for 10/17 at 2 pm was announced.
- o Senator Mejia asked if there were ways that Staff Senate and non-Senate members could volunteer to help the United Way. Dr. Hersey explained that there are various activities that accept volunteer work.
- o Melissa Rhodes asked if the United Way contribution can be part of the payroll deduction form. Dr. Hersey stated a request for this was sent forward.

- **Women Takes Flight**

- o Workshops are open to all. Primarily addresses advancement of women in the workforce.
- o Oct 30th – “Signs of Suicide” workshop open to faculty and staff.
- o Financial Management workshop will be available in January.
- o In March, Research and Innovation Symposium will be occurring.

- **Executive Council Meeting**

- o Senator Mejia will be joining the Faculty Senate President at the University's Administrative Council Meeting. The Staff Senate was invited by President Berry. This will take place Nov. 13th.

- **October 31st Open Forum**

- o It will be co-hosted by both the Faculty and Staff Senates.
- o It will be at 2 pm on Oct. 31st on the Terrace.
- o This is a chance for Staff and Faculty to address any concerns and ask questions.

- **PLC proposal**

- o Senator Mejia compiled all the suggestions received from unclassified staff and sent them to Dr. Arant to review and consider.

- **Vacant President-Elect position**

- o Senator Berthard departed leaving the President-Elect seat vacant. President Mejia nominated Sara Webb for the position.
- o Sara was appointed President-Elect with **10 yays; 0 nays, and 3 obtains.**

- **Other Vacancies**

- o Senator Gammon and Buford will look for a nominee within their division to replace Senator Kearns who departed ULM.

- **Service Hours**

- o President Mejia reminded everyone of requirement for service hours,
- o Senator Dykes mentioned that the next home football game (Nov. 9th) will be Youth Day. Everyone under 17 gets in free.

Open Discussion

- Past president Hardee thanks all those who participated in Homecoming week.

Adjournment

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Dykes and seconded by Senator Gammon. Meeting adjourned by President Mejia.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.