



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for January 2024

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, January 24, 2024	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM	<b>Location:</b> ULIB 622   Zoom for Guests
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<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Senators Present:</b> Chloë Beaver, Meghan Olinger, Dana Mejia, Shane Dykes, Sarah Siereveld, James Beinkemper, Eron Bethard, Kelley Gentry, Therese Filhiol, Sabrina McClain, Chris Williams, and Andrew Hardee.</p>	<p><b>Senators Excused:</b> Cindy Foust and Sara Webb</p> <p><b>Senators Absent:</b> Ahmaad Solmone</p> <p><b>Visitors:</b> John Sutherlin, Jennifer Huey, Medria Buford, Mystee Burrell, Joanna Hunter, Jessica Griggs, Janet Goss, Allison Bailey, Gaines, Jennifer Huey, Melissa Rhodes, Nicole Walker, Ayush Gupta, Gary Russ, Tonya Quebedeaux, Gregory Baccarini, Gina White, Timothy McCullar, Catherine Estis, and LaShina Warren</p>
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### Call to Order

- January 2024 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President-Elect Dana Mejia 10:08 AM.
- Roll taken by Secretary Beaver.
- Visitors welcomed by President-Elect Dana Mejia.

### Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by Senator Filhiol to approve the Minutes of the December 2023 meeting. Seconded by Senator Bethard. The Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.

### Guest Speaker(s)

- Dr. Amy Weems, Director of the ULM Educators Rising Program-
- On February 29, ULM will host the Educators Rising State Program for up to 700 people. The theme of the conference is “Discover your Legacy.” The program has received a \$100,000 grant from Regions State Bank dispersed over a 5-year period. Volunteers will be needed for the day of the program for judging and general duties. Jeremy Bell sent an email out about volunteering. Staff can participate by volunteering or making themselves available to direct visitors on campus. The program will use multiple buildings across the campus. Information on the Educator’s Rising State Program can be found at [ulm.edu/edulead](http://ulm.edu/edulead).

### Reports of Committees

- Communications- No Report
- Constitution & Bylaws- No Report
- Elections- President-Elect Mejia (Chair) reminded senators that the community service hours link is available to log hours for the Spring semester. She encouraged senators to get involved and be a present on campus.

- Staff Welfare & Handbook- Secretary Beaver (Chair) announced that the committee is performing the annual review of the Unclassified Staff Handbook, and it looks like there will be updates to submit. The committee is also considering staff welfare related events such as a Staff Appreciation Day and professional development recommendations specifically for staff.

### Continuing Business

- ULM Staff Senate Developmental Scholarships
  - President Hardee announced that he will send an email out to staff about the scholarships and the application process before the next meeting.

### Open Discussion

- New Communications Chair
  - Senator Faith Wilson has left the university so a new Chair for the Communications Committee will be appointed to finish out this term. President Hardee requests that any senators interested in serving as Chair contact him before the next meeting.
- Follow-up from the Executive Board's Meeting with the President
  - Staff Senate officers met with President Berry. Based on surveys like *Great Colleges to Work For*, President Berry wanted staff's input on feedback he received from the survey, such as university-wide communication issues. Senate officers spoke with the President about potential communication issues from administration to department, department to department, and university-wide communication. Senate officers also spoke with the President about staff concerns related to performance evaluations, university week participation for staff, and professional development opportunities for staff. Senate officers also discussed the issue of information not being shared with staff when it is only sent via email to the Faculty Listserv. Specifically related to the launch of Canvas, many staff are unaware that the Canvas launch date has been moved to Summer 2024 or that Canvas is replacing Moodle because communications on the topic have only been sent to the Faculty Listserv. Staff who teach classes as adjuncts are greatly affected. Senate officers left the meeting feeling as though an open line of dialogue with the President was in place for Senate moving forward.
- Appointment of Kelley Gentry to replace Senator Faith Wilson.
  - In the last election, Kelley Gentry was runner-up to Faith Wilson. Kelley Gentry has accepted the position and has been appointed by President Hardee to complete former-Senator Wilson's term. Senators present at the meeting voted on this appointment. Tally of votes were 9 yays; 0 nays; and 0 abstentions.
- Strategic Plan
  - Past-President Olinger discussed the Strategic Planning session during university week and how staff can be involved in that process. There will be more forums to attend as the next Strategic Planning document is developed.
- Announcements
  - ULM Women's Basketball- Jan. 25 @ 5 PM, Jan. 27 @ 12 PM, Feb. 2 @ 6:30 PM, Feb. 3 @ 2 PM, Monroe, LA, Fant-Ewing Coliseum
  - ULM Men's Basketball- Jan. 25 @ 7:30 PM, Jan. 27 @ 2:30 PM, Feb. 7 @ 6:30 PM, Feb. 10 @ 2 PM, Monroe, LA, Fant-Ewing Coliseum
  - ULM Spring Blood Drive- Jan. 29 @ 9 AM-Hangar Ballroom A
  - Women Take FLIGHT: Leadership through Athletics- Feb. 2 @ 8 AM- The Terrace
  - ULM's Got Talent- Feb. 6 @ 6 PM- Brown Auditorium
- Senator Dykes mentioned that fire drills will start soon as they must all be done by the end of the academic year.

- Upcoming Alumni Events this spring
  - Women’s Symposium
  - Greek Gala
  - Wine Over Water- Medria Buford, Alumni Association, will be sending out a volunteer sign-up sheet to the ULM listserv.
- Social Studies Fair- March 7, 2024- Volunteer judges are needed for the fair. Senator Filhiol will send email communications out soon on volunteering to judge.
- Dr. John Sutherlin (Visitor) asked that the Staff Senate leadership team reach out to the leadership of the Student Government Association (SGA) and Faculty Senate to take up and review the LGBTQ policy. Staff Senate approved this policy in 2023 and is waiting on Faculty Senate and SGA for approval. Past-President Olinger assured that the Senate leadership team will reach out to SGA and Faculty Senate leaders. Staff Senate reached out to Faculty Senate multiple times last year about the policy, but the policy was never addressed. The hope is that with new leadership in both groups, the policy will be taken up to review and approve.
- ULM Athletics will be hosting Sunbelt Championship for Track and Field. More information to come.

### **Adjournment**

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Sabrina McClain and seconded by Senator Sarah Siereveld. Meeting adjourned by President-Elect Dana Mejia at 10:55 AM.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21 at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.