



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for May 2024

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, May 22, 2024	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM	<b>Location:</b> ULM Terrace   Zoom for Guests
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<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Senators Present:</b> Andrew Hardee, Dana Mejia, Meghan Olinger, Chloë Beaver, Caitlyn Hilliard, Wesley Welch, Shane Dykes, Chance Eppinette, Kelley Gentry, Danielle Tolbird, James Beinkemper, Erick Burton, Shonnie Hall, Chris Williams, Michael Gammon, Sabrina McClain, Therese Filhiol, Medria Buford, Jennifer Huey, Eron Bethard, and Matthew Kearns (Zoom)</p>	<p><b>Senators Excused:</b> Sara Webb</p> <p><b>Senators Absent:</b> Sarah Siereveld, Ahmaad Solmone, and Cindy Foust</p> <p><b>Visitors:</b> Ronald Berry, Allison Thompson, Melissa Rhodes, Lisa Miller, Seth Hall, Joanna Hunter, Tonya Quebedeaux, Alicia Mitchell, Grant Saulters, Gary Russ, Samantha Loreface, Tresea Buckhaults, Ida Gaines, and LaShina Warren.</p>
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### Call to Order

- May 2024 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Hardee at 10:04 a.m.
- Roll taken by Secretary Beaver.
- Visitors welcomed by President Hardee.

### Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by Senator Bethard to approve the Minutes of the April 2024 meeting. Seconded by Past-President Olinger. Senate approves the April 2024 Minutes.

### Guest Speaker(s)

#### ULM President, Dr. Ronald Berry

- President Berry thanked Staff Senate for their work and new senators for their service.
- President Berry discussed ULM’s situation in Baton Rouge and the budget. ULM has people working on its behalf in Baton Rouge which should lead to the university receiving more money than the funding formula currently shows. The culture of ULM has changed, and this is being recognized both in the community and in Baton Rouge with the university being perceived in a better light with new advocates in the capital.
- Representative Julia Letlow gave ULM \$1 million to go towards building a new lab that will test drugs shipped from Canada going to Louisiana pharmacies.
- President Berry fielded questions:
  - Senator Filhiol asked about the situation in Baton Rouge for ULM with a new Governor. President Berry stated that ULM went to the Facilities Corporation to lobby for the university. ULM has money for this year, but next year will be a different issue with new leadership in the capital. President Berry mentioned that a constitutional convention could happen that would allow other agencies to bear the burden of statewide budget cuts besides higher education and healthcare. There is still a lot of uncertainty with new leadership in the capital.

- Senator Burton asked about a potential bill that could give the system more power over tuition costs. President Berry clarified that the potential bill would allow universities to raise tuition for specific programs with the approval of the system. He used the example of the ULM Counseling, MS program that must currently turn away students due to faculty limitations where raising that tuition could allow that program to hire more faculty to meet student demands.
- Senator Tolbird asked about any updates on Clarke Williams Innovation Campus. President berry responded that ULM is marketing the facility through LA Economic Development. VCOMM is confirmed to be a tenant and Bossier Parish Community College may bring their two-year hospitality program to the campus.
- President Berry asked Vice President of Enrollment Management and University Relations, Lisa Miller if she would like to add anything. Ms. Miller announced the Centennial Scholars Summit on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12th. ULM is partnering with Monroe City Schools and Ouachita Parish Schools and the summit will allow Centennial Scholars to come together on campus and develop valuable skills. Volunteers will be needed to assist students during the summit.
- In closing, President Berry thanked the Staff Senate and President Hardee for their service to the university.

### Reports of Committees

- Communications- No Report
- Constitution & Bylaws- No Report
- President-Elect & Elections- President-Elect Mejia announced Senate service hours for the 2023-2024 year. Senate accrued 199 Spring service hours and a total of 325.75 hours for the 2023-2024 year. For elections, Staff Senate gained an additional 3 seats for 15 total Senate seats in 2024-2025. President-Elect Mejia recognized the new Senators from each division.
  - Academic Affairs- Wesley Welch, Jessica Griggs, and Caitlyn Hilliard
  - President/Athletics- Medria Buford, Michael Gammon, and Matthew Kearns
  - Enrollment Management & University Relations- Danielle Tolbird and Erick Burton
  - Information Services & Student Success- Chance Eppinette
  - Student Affairs- Jennifer Huey and Shonnie Hall-Trotter
- Staff Welfare & Handbook- Secretary Beaver provided an update on the annual review of the Unclassified Staff Handbook. Two new policies regarding leave were added as part of the annual review and the final draft was sent to Melissa Ducote, Director of Human Resources for review and approval.
- President- President's Report will be in New Business.

### Continuing Business

- Resolution 2324-04: I move to amend Article II, Section 5.B.b and for subletter B.b.i to read as follows:
  - Section 5. Replacement
    - b.i. Attendance must be in-person unless electronic attendance is approved prior to the meeting.

And to amend G. to Article VI, Section 3. And for subletter G. to read as follows:

G. A senator must get approval at least 24 hours in advance to attend regularly scheduled in-person meetings electronically. If the Staff Senate President does not grant prior approval, the senator will be marked as absent and unexcused.

  - Motion passed.

### New Business

- Recognition of Senator Service
  - President Hardee thanked and recognized the outgoing Senators for their service, and each received a certificate of recognition.
  - Outgoing Senators:
    - Chloë Beaver, Therese Filhiol, Cindy Foust, Kelley Gentry, Meghan Olinger, Sarah Siereveld, Ahmaad Solmone, Sara Webb, and Chris Williams
- Resolution 2324-05: I move to recognize the work and value of the 2023-2024 Unclassified Staff and the ULM Staff Senate of the University of Louisiana Monroe.
  - Motion by Senator Mejia; Seconded by Senator Beaver.
  - No Debate
  - 9 Yays; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains
- Election for New Executive Board Positions
  - Position of President-Elect for 2024-2025
    - Senator Eron Bethard was nominated by Senator Williams. Nomination was seconded by Past-President Olinger. No additional nominations. Senator Bethard wins President-Elect position.
  - Position of Secretary/Treasurer for 2024-2025
    - Senator Wesley Welch was nominated by Senator Filhiol. Nomination was seconded by Senator Beaver. No additional nominations. Senator Welch wins Secretary/Treasurer position.
- Passing of the Gavel- President Hardee passes the presidential gavel to President-Elect Mejia.

### **Open Discussion**

- No Announcements
- Open Floor Discussions
  - Past-President Olinger thanked incoming senators for their willingness to service and thanked outgoing senators for their service on the Senate.

### **Adjournment**

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Welch and seconded by Senator Gentry. Meeting adjourned by President Mejia at 11:30 a.m.
- The next Staff Senate meeting is TBD.