



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for January 2026

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| <b>Date:</b> Wednesday, January 21, 2026 | <b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM | <b>Location:</b> ULIB 622   Microsoft Teams |
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| <b>Attendees</b> | <b>Senators Present:</b> Kelley Gentry, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall, Jennifer Huey, Molly McCullar, Dana Mejia, Sara Webb, Wesley Welch, Caitlyn Hilliard, Steven Burnside, Jamie Mondragon, Karen Worsley, Keisha Chambless, Stephanie Robinson, Alyse Smith, and Medria Buford. | <b>Senators Excused:</b> None  |
|                  |  | <b>Senators Absent:</b> Gina White   |
|                  |  | <b>Visitors online:</b> Hilary Tice, Joey McNamara, Michael Lee, Melissa Rhodes, Vicki Crist, Joanna Hunter, CarrieLin Stafford, Allison Thompson, Landon LeJuene, and Natalya Van |

### Call to Order

- January 2026 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Sara Webb at 10:00 AM.
- An attendance sheet was circulated.
- Visitors welcomed by President Webb

### Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes and Guest Speaker

- President Webb called a motion to accept December Meeting minutes. Motion made by Senator Welch to approve. Seconded by Senator Buford. The Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.
- Guest speaker is Dr. Anne Case Hanks, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
  - She currently oversees the Student Success Center, OSPR (writes grants), Registrar, and the Dual Enrollment offices.
  - Special Accommodations and Career Development will be moving under her umbrella this semester to better align and strengthen the student success piece on campus.
  - Dr. McEcharn is working on an email communication to be sent regarding the recent changes and realignment.
  - Patti Pate will be retiring so there are current conversations on moving advising back into some of their focused departments for freshman advising. There is a current job description for replacing Patti’s current role. They are hoping to have this position filled by late March.
  - She discussed the program reviews that were performed and that each program had to provide their current status on recruiting, retention, and placement into the job force. Programs were given plenty of time to prepare for their presentation.

### Reports of Committees

- President Webb- No reports at this time
- President-Elect, Elections- Elections committee met last week to discuss the upcoming elections. We will maintain the existing bylaw language until clearer guidance is available on anticipated changes to the organizational chart. The intent is to have four senator representatives representing the three campus areas.
- No other reports

## Old Business

- **Open meetings law-** President Webb provided the Q&A from the legal team regarding the new open meetings law. We will begin posting a print off of our meeting agenda outside of the board room 24 hours prior to the Staff Senate meeting. We will also allow the public to comment/email items regarding the agenda items prior to the Senate meeting.
- **Town Hall/ Q&A -** Tentatively scheduled for February 4th but a finalization of this meeting will need to be requested. Senators believe that staff would be more comfortable to ask questions and concerns if it was presented in an anonymous format so they feel protected. A form will be created within the next week so staff may begin submitting questions. A staff senate representative can present/read these questions to upper management for answers. The staff senate executive committee will preview the questions provided from staff and will select those that need to be sent to the president prior to the "Town Hall".

## New Business

- **Staff Senate President-** Sara Webb is leaving the University. Caitlyn Hilliard will be stepping in to complete Sara's year and will continue to serve her presidency duties the following year.

## Announcements/Open Discussion

- **Open Discussion:**
  - This baseball season- kids (12 and younger) get in free to all baseball games.
  - Volunteer opportunity- Staff Senate will schedule an additional food bank volunteer opportunity for staff senate representatives.
  - Alumni Center is gearing up for Wine Over Water. Students will be on campus this year since the event time moved so closure of the bridge may take some additional adjustments. Staff may contact Medria Buford for volunteer work.
  - There is an open position in residential life- Coordinator of Residential Life so if there are staff members interested or have anyone in mind, please direct them to the job listing.

## Adjournment

- There being no other business, President-elect Hilliard called a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Senator Welch and seconded by Senator Buford. Meeting adjourned by President-elect Hilliard at 10:41am.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.