



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for February 2025

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, February 19, 2025	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM	<b>Location:</b> ULIB 622   Zoom for Guests
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<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Senators Present:</b> James Beinkemper, Medria Buford, Erick Burton, Shane Dykes, Michael Gammon, Jessica Griggs, Caitlyn Hillard, Jennifer Huey, Sabrina McClain, Dana Mejia, Danielle Tolbird, Wesley Welch	<b>Senators Excused:</b> Andrew Hardee, Sara Webb
		<b>Senators Absent:</b> Shonnie Hall
		<b>Visitors:</b> Atush Gupta, Brittany Hall, Joanna Hunter, Mikki May, Tonya Quebedeaux, Melissa Rhodes, Grant Saulters, John Sutherlin, Allison Thompson, Natalya Van, Chris Williams

### Call to Order

- February 2025 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Mejia at 10:01 am.
- Roll taken by Secretary Wes Welch.
- Visitors welcomed by President Mejia.

### Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

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

### Guest Speaker(s)

- Gina White from the Office of Global and Multicultural Affairs
  - Gina discussed the Black History Month Program: African Americans and Labor Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am at Bayou Point.
  - Attorney Courtney Joiner will be the speaker at the event.
  - The program is driven by the university, community, and students.
  - The Centennial Scholar participants were given essays to write for contest with the theme being “Black History is American History”. Winner will recite their essay at the Black History Month program.
  - The aim is bringing people into the culture of not just African Americans but the University as well.
  - This year’s color theme is Black and Green.
  - Dr. Pamela Saulsbury was awarded the Trailblazer Award for her many achievements and contributions.

## Reports of Committees

Communications- The Facebook metrics show that the Staff Senate Facebook page has increased engagement 1800% and views increased by 830%. Senator Hillard stated that they would do Staff Bios of those staff not as visible (behind the scenes staff) as other staff members on campus.

Constitution & Bylaws- Nothing at this time.

Elections- Nothing at this time.

Staff Welfare & Handbook-Senator Welch preparing final document for revisions additions to the Staff Handbook.

## Continuing Business

### ● Funding Request

- Katie Scogin discussed the Pharmacy Schools request for funds for a new microwave for their staff kitchen. The microwave is older and outdated. Request was sent to Senator Jessica Griggs.
- Motion for funding request passed with 11 yays and 2 abstains.
- President Mejia will need to check with Dr. Arant for final approval due to the current budget freeze.

### ● Presidential Search

- President Mejia was asked to serve on the Presidential Search Committee as a non-voting member.
- President Mejia created and sent out a survey asking Unclassified Staff what they expect from the new President. Currently 35 completed the survey. It is anonymous. Closes on Friday 2/21/2025.
- Departments are more than welcome to meet with at least one executive board member of the Staff Senate and the senators from that division to discuss any topics related to this search.
- The Presidential Search Forum will take place on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the library.
  - The Search Committee will discuss the process for the search. It is open to the public.

### ● Vacant Seat

- Senator Eppinette resigned from Staff Senate. This opens a new seat in his division. President Mejia reached out to a potential replacement from the division. More info will be given at the next meeting.

### ● Sign-Up Showdown

- Alumni Association's initiative to engage membership among faculty and staff to foster a stronger connection with the Alumni Association. Takes place March 3-17, 2025. Winners will be announced on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ● Social Studies Fair

- Occurs March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Volunteers for judging are welcome. Email Therese Filhiol at [filhiol@ulm.edu](mailto:filhiol@ulm.edu).

### ● School of Education Event

- School of Education is looking for volunteers for an event in which they will be inviting 200 students, administrators, and teachers on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Open Discussion

- Senator Tolbird asked to remind student workers to complete the Foundation Scholarship application by Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. Remind them to put deep thought into the essay portion.
- Browse on the Bayou registration has closed due to reaching its max limit. Possible future session may take place.
- Senator Dykes asked to remind student workers to do their trainings.
- Senator Buford stated Wine over Water is looking for volunteers to work the payments received at the entrance. Volunteers must be ULM employees.
- Oozeball will take place on April 11<sup>th</sup>. They would like more faculty/staff to sign up.

#### **Adjournment**

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Burford and seconded by Senator Huey. Meeting adjourned by President Mejia at 10:39.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on March 19th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.