



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for April 2026

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026	Time: 10:01 AM	Location: ULIB 622 Microsoft Teams
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Attendees	Senators Present: Kelley Gentry, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall, Stephanie Robinson, Wesley Welch, Caitlyn Hilliard, Gina White, Steven Burnside, Jamie Mondragon, Karen Worsley, Keisha Chambless, and Alyse Smith	Senators Excused: Dana Mejia and Medria Buford Visitors online: Hilary Tice, Joey McNamara, Melissa Rhodes, Joanna Hunter, Terri Gallien, Linda Ngo, Deb Morse, and Michelle McEacharn
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Call to Order

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

Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- President Hilliard called a motion to accept March Meeting minutes. Motion made by Senator Welch to approve. Seconded by Senator White. The Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.

Reports of Committees

- President Hilliard- Senator McCullar is no longer with ULM.
- Elections- There are no current nominations. We will extending the nomination period. Elections may be pushed back as well. This will be available through electronic forms.
 - She has pulled a list of those eligible. We will have the following seats
 - 4 senators from Academic Affairs. We currently have no seats available since we have 4 senators who will be rolling over for the 2026-2027 year.
 - 3 senators from Business Affairs. We will have 2 seats available.
 - 3 senators from the Office of the President. We will have 3 seats available.
- No other reports

Old Business

- The University Council will hold its inaugural meeting at 9:00am on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 in the Terrace (7th floor ULIB).
 - They are adjusting those on the council to accommodate classified staff so they can be represented.

New Business

- Staff appreciation event recap
 - We had roughly 50 people show up.
 - Recommendations to make this event better:
 - Maybe put up a tent to make it more visible.
 - Appreciation to Senator Worsley for gathering the promotional items and gift cards

- Appreciation to Senator Hall and student Kennedy for handling the line dancing.
- Senate nominations will remain open through Thursday, April 17th.

Announcements/Open Discussion

- **Open Discussion:**
 - Student Employee week is April 13-17.
 - Wine over Water is scheduled April 16th. The bridge is closed for today and tomorrow for the event. Tickets are currently available. There are plenty of volunteer hours. Kennedy Woods may be connected for volunteering information. Volunteers do get into the event for free. There is usually a 24hr flash sale for faculty and staff discounted tickets.
 - Dragon Boat races is happening on April 18th. They will close down roads for this event so make sure to check your routes when leaving and coming onto campus.
 - Presidential Investiture is April 23rd. Staff Senate should make sure to attend and encourage other colleagues to attend. Gala is at 7:00PM- there are limited tickets left but they are discounted for staff.
 - Wednesday, April 29: A lunch event for faculty and staff with President Castille and the Executive Leadership Team (details to follow after Spring Break). The timing of this event should help minimize class conflicts so that all can enjoy.
 - OozeBall is scheduled Friday, April 17th. - Registration was extended until 3:00PM today. Contact President Hilliard for group signups.
 - President Hilliard would love to take time to meet with each area over the summer to be better informed to have conversations representing the staff senate.
 - You can view all VAPA events on their Facebook page.
 - Free lunch social from Iron Cactus today for Spring Fever Week.

Action Items/Next Steps

- Food Bank of NELA- April 24th at 9:00am. Signup online.
- Next Meeting - Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 10 am at the Terrace
 - Mandatory for exiting and incoming senators to be in attendance
 - Open to all staff

Adjournment

- There being no other business, President Hilliard called a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Senator Griggs and seconded by Senator Welch. Meeting adjourned by President Hilliard at 10:21am.
- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at 10:00 am in the Library Terrace.