



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for November 2024

Date: Wednesday, November 20th, 2024	Time: 10:00 AM	Location: ULIB 622 Zoom for Guests
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Attendees	Senators Present: Medria Buford, Shane Dykes, Chance Eppinette, Shonnie Hall, Caitlyn Hillard, Jennifer Huey, Sabrina McClain, Sara Webb, Wesley Welch	Senators Excused: James Beinkemper, Michael Gammon, Andrew Hardee, Danielle Tolbird
		Senators Absent: Erick Burton, Jessica Griggs
		Visitors: Natalya Van, Joanna Hunter, Greg Eppinette, Grant Saulters, Therese Filhiol, Deborah Beavers, Tonya Quebedeaux

Call to Order

- November 2024 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Dana Mejia 10:04 am.
- Roll taken by Secretary Wes Welch.
- Visitors welcomed by President Mejia.

Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by Senator Buford to approve the Minutes of the May meeting. Seconded by Senator Hillard. Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.

Guest Speaker(s)

Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, Faculty Senate President

- A lot of the work that the Faculty senate has been working on is their handbook. They are about to begin reviewing their Constitution and By-Laws.
- There has been talks of the creation of a University Senate that includes staff and faculty to create a way to connect faculty and staff.
- The Faculty Senate created a webform for faculty to submit any concerns that they may have and to track what implementations have worked well.
 - Staff Senate will look into similar webforms for its constituents.
- Senator Welch asked about the Handbook Committees of both Senates to meet and see if there are any connections that need to be made between staff and faculty in both. Some staff are also adjunct faculty. They are open to this especially since some procedures of the staff handbook also apply to faculty.
- President Mejia discussed a little more on the University Senate to give staff more of a voice.
- Dr. Anderson would like for a representative to be present at Faculty Senate meetings to make sure that any possible connections to staff can be addressed.

Reports of Committees

Communications- Nothing to report.

Constitution & Bylaws- Nothing to report.

Elections- Nothing to report.

Staff Welfare & Handbook- Meeting in December to review the Staff handbook.

Continuing Business

Executive Council meeting

- Dr. Berry invited both Staff and Faculty Senate to attend.
- President Mejia represented Staff Senate at this meeting.
- Opportunity Fund awarded \$54,293 to fund several project proposals.
 - 3 staff members received some of these funds for their projects.
 - These projects benefit student learning, alumni, and the community.
 - There is more info on the President's website and a link for donating.
- Dr. Arrant invited faculty and staff to submit proposals for the Spring 2025 University Week. (Jan. 13-17, 2025)
 - President Mejia encouraged submitting proposals.

October 31st Open Forum

- Highlights included updates on current on-campus construction projects and the Master Plan.
 - Some of the projects include the new lab for the School of Construction, and various renovations.
- P-40 Underdog Press Conference set for Nov. 20th.
 - They are working to secure funding to build a shelter on-campus. They are looking to purchase 100 acres of land near the university.
 - They secured nearly 1 million thus far.
- VCOM proposed a new degree program that will have a partnership with ULM.
 - VCOM has purchased land across the street from the UPD. They plan to open a community clinic.

Chili Cook Off

- Staff Senate placed 2nd in the Don Weems Chili Cook Off event.

Vacant Senate positions

- Senator Buford has reached out to LaShina Warren to see if she would be interested in a nomination for the vacant seat. LaShina is interested, and Senator Mejia will check to see if she is eligible.

Open Discussion

- Senator Buford asked if we should be reaching out to constituents intermittently. It is encouraged that we all do so.
- Senator Webb mentioned spots for volunteering in connection with programs Dr. Leigh Hersey discussed at the previous Senate meeting.
- 31 Ambassadors program is seeking more students to apply. Senator Buford asked to have potential students apply if interested and meet the criteria.
- Warhawk Wardrobe is collecting cap and gowns from past ULM graduates for students who are not able to afford them.
- Senator Eppinette inquired if Staff and Faculty Senate have the ability to support the means of salary support. President Mejia will look into this.

Adjournment

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Huey and seconded by Senator Eppinette. Meeting adjourned by President Mejia at 10:43 am.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on December 18th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.