



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for February 2026

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, February 25, 2026	<b>Time:</b> 10:02 AM	<b>Location:</b> ULIB 622   Microsoft Teams
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<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Senators Present:</b> Kelley Gentry, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall, Jennifer Huey, Dana Mejia, Wesley Welch, Caitlyn Hilliard, Steven Burnside, Jamie Mondragon, Karen Worsley, Keisha Chambless, Stephanie Robinson, Alyse Smith, and Gina White</p>	<p><b>Senators Excused:</b> Molly McCullar</p> <p><b>Senators Absent:</b> Medria Buford</p> <p><b>Visitors online:</b> Hilary Tice, Joey McNamara, Melissa Rhodes, Vicki Crist, Joanna Hunter, CarrieLin Stafford, Christie Hemphill, and Allison Thompson.</p>
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### Call to Order

- February 2026 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Hilliard at 10:02 AM.
- An attendance sheet was circulated.
- Visitors welcomed by President Hilliard

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

- President Hilliard called a motion to accept January Meeting minutes. Motion made by Senator Welch to approve. Seconded by Senator Gentry. The Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.
- No guest speaker this month.

### Reports of Committees

- President Hilliard- She has met with Dr. Castille. They discussed expectations between her and the staff senate including the Q & A session. An alternative will be discussed in new business. Dr. Castille did want to correct her statement that was made at the University address, the university council, that will include two staff senators, has not met but they still have intentions on creating the council and meeting.
- President-Elect, Elections- Elections are coming up. March 15th will be the deadline for eligibility. They will pull a list to review the senators who have completed their services and those that are eligible to fill the available seats. Nominations will be open April 7.
- No other reports

### Old Business

- Staff Event Q&A - President Hilliard’s discussion with Dr. Castille focused primarily on an initiative to answer staff questions. The leadership team is not supporting an additional Q & A since they have provided several Q & A events during University week. It has been proposed that the Senators collect questions from unclassified staff and President Hilliard can ask these questions to Dr. Castille. Q & As can be listed on the staff senate webpage for all to see. This is also a great opportunity for the Senators to connect with their area. The staff senate bizmail account will send the initial message to all unclassified staff which will also include which senator is reporting for each division. After the initial message is sent, senators may contact their division colleagues to inquire about questions they want

answered.

### **New Business**

- We are running into issues with Web recordings of our Staff Senate meeting. We are proposing that we continue using Microsoft Teams and then uploading the recording into Youtube and we can place the link to the youtube video on the staff senate webpage.
- Monthly volunteering for the foodbank. We can partner with other student organizations and divisions to join for the month.

### **Announcements/Open Discussion**

- **Open Discussion:**
  - Foundation scholarship portal is open until March 8th.
  - Women's Symposium is scheduled for March 18th. Tickets are currently available for purchase.
  - VAPA performance of Cinderella is opening March 26-28th 6:00pm and March 29th is at 2:00pm.
  - Grad Finale and T-shirt Swap is scheduled the same day- March 24th. For t-shirt swap, bring another college t-shirt to trade in for a ULM t-shirt that our students have designed.
  - Wine over Water is scheduled April 16th. Tickets are currently available. There are plenty of volunteer hours. Volunteers can attend the event for free after their volunteer hour.
  - OozeBall is scheduled Friday, April 17th. - Staff Senate can consider having a team this year.
  - The National Wheelchair Association will be in West Monroe Sports Complex- March 18th-29th.
    - There is a volunteering opportunity for the Staff Senate to help support this event coming to the community for March 19th or 26th. President Hilliard will be contacting their main contact to see how we can help support.
  - JC Penny Event is March 15th.

### **Adjournment**

- There being no other business, President Hilliard called a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Senator Welch and seconded by Senator . Meeting adjourned by President Hilliard at 10:27am.
- The next Staff Senate meeting is tentatively rescheduled from March 18th to Wednesday, March 25th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622. Date will be confirmed once room availability has been checked.