



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for November 2025

**Date:** Wednesday, November 19, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** ULIB 622 | Zoom for Guests

## Attendees

**Senators Present:** Steven Burnside, Keisha Chambliss, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall, Caitlyn Hilliard, Molly McCullar, Dana Mejia, Jamie Mondragon, Stephanie Robinson, Alyse Smith, Wesley Welch, Gina White, Karen Worsley

**Senators Excused:** Medria Buford, Kelley Gentry, Jennifer Huey

**Senators Absent:** n/a

**Visitors:** Liliian Brown, Therese Filhiol, Terri Gallien, Christie Hemphill, Joanna Hunter, Mikki May, Sabrina McClain, Joey McNamara, McKenzie Metz, Katie Smith, Allison Thompson, Hillary Tice, Tom Torregrossa, Landon LeJeune, Melissa Rhodes, Lauren Weatherford, Ida Wilson

## Call to Order

- November 2025 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Webb.
- Roll taken by Parliamentarian Wesley Welch
- Visitors welcomed by President Webb

## Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- Motion made by Senator Welch to approve the Minutes of the May meeting. Seconded by Senator Jessica Griggs. Senate approves the last meeting's minutes.

## Guest Speaker(s)

- Sami Owens, Vice President of Management and University Relations
  - Sami oversees many departments within Enrollment and Student Life
  - The Self-Development, Counseling, & Special Accommodations Center will be renamed "the Counseling Center".
  - Acquired many new departments when division merged with Student Life.
  - She is dedicated to creating a clear pathway for students from recruitment to graduation.
  - She will ensure that each area provides these clear and concise service.
  - She will prioritize Student Life to increase retention.
  - Division priorities
    - Strengthen student journey from start to finish
      - Ace's Place is a good determining factor if we are achieving this. The fewer calls to Ace's Place the better.
    - Stabilizing and strengthening enrollment
    - Elevating student life as a retention driver
    - Improving internal communication
    - Building a culture of consistency

- President Webb asked about where ULM is currently with recruitment:
  - ULM had a 22% increase in freshman in Fall 2024, but ULM was down from that for Fall 2025.
- Past President Mejia asked how much out of state recruitment ULM does?
  - Currently, ULM does not do as much as they would like due to the high expenses that are required.
- Senator Welch asked about what recruitment looked like for online majors.
  - They don't do a lot specifically. They provide all the information for the online majors in addition to the on-campus and let applicants decide their path. No specific recruit method geared towards online currently.

## Reports of Committees

### Communications-

**Constitution & Bylaws**-nothing to report

**Elections**-nothing to report

**Staff Welfare & Handbook**-nothing to report

## Continuing Business

- President Webb met with Kristi Davis concerning Juneteenth being on the calendar. Kristi will bring the concerns to the Calendar Committee. President Webb also met with President Castille about ideas to show appreciation and support for staff.
- The Q&A with President would be best after Christmas. The Senate is going to decide on a date soon. It will likely be during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February.
- Concerning the Open Meeting Law, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will meet to review the constitution and make sure we are in compliance with this law. They will prepare their findings for the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting. President Webb will also be setting up a meeting with ULM's Legal Consul and the University Council to get more clarity concerning this law.

## Open Discussion

- Dr. Amy Weems is requesting volunteers for the Toy Drive.
- Volunteers requested to read to Emily Williamson Laboratory School children on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-9:30 am.
- VAPA Concert will take place at 7:30 pm tonight Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Closet Cleanout will be running until 2 pm today Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Teddy Bear Toss will be hosted by the Women's Basketball team at 2 pm on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Young Alumni Club will have an open event on Dec. 12 at 6:30pm at the Hangar.

## Adjournment

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator McCullar and seconded by Senator Hall. Meeting adjourned by President Webb at 10:58am.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on December 17th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.

