



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for October 2025

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, October 15, 2025	<b>Time:</b> 10:01 AM	<b>Location:</b> ULIB 622   Microsoft Teams unavailable
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<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Senators Present:</b> Medria Buford, Keisha Chambless, Kelley Gentry, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall-Trotter, Jennifer Huey, Molly McCullar, Dana Mejia, Stephanie Robinson, Alyse Smith, Sara Webb, Wesley Welch, Gina White, and Karen Worsley	<b>Senators Excused:</b> Caitlyn Hilliard  <b>Senators Absent:</b> Steven Burnside  <b>Visitors in person:</b> Melissa Rhodes
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## Call to Order

- September 2025 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Sara Webb at **10:01 AM**.
- Attendance sheet was circulated.

## Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- **September meeting minutes** were reviewed.
- Motion to approve: **Senator Welch**
- Seconded by: **Senator Huey**
- Motion passed unanimously.

## Guest Speaker(s): Allison Thompson

### Topic: Institutional Effectiveness

#### Highlights:

- Who they are- oversee accreditation, institutional research and assessment and evaluation for the University.
- Accreditation (Allison Thompson)
  - SACSCOC
    - Reaffirmation occurs every 10 years.
    - There is a 5 year interim process but it is not as in depth as the 10-year accreditation
    - Currently they are revising policies and accreditation standards
    - New Accrerator: Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE), created by state university systems in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. We might be a test market for this accreditor but the final decision is still not clear.
  - Program accreditations
    - Assist with planning and reporting
    - Maintain institution-level information and publication requirements

- Institutional Research (Melissa Rhodes and Luke Webb)
  - Federal, state, system, and other scheduled, mandatory reporting
    - Changes on the horizon:
      - federal agency reorganizations and employee reductions
      - new federal and state reporting requirements
      - System-level strategic initiatives to homogenize IT systems and processes
  - Ad hoc data requests for internal and external constituencies
  - Creation and maintenance of institutional data dashboards
  - Assist with management of data governance standards, processes, and integrity
  - [ulm.edu/upa](http://ulm.edu/upa) - IR Highlight: ULM Quick Facts- user friendly, public facing tool on our website to gain information and find details on students information
- Assessment and Evaluation (Ida Gaines)
  - Student learning outcomes assessment process design and implementation (degree programs and general education)
  - Unit effectiveness assessment process design and implementation
  - Administration of national faculty, staff, and student surveys
    - One student is selected from participating in the survey, and receives a special parking tag so he/she can park anywhere on campus for a full year.

#### Discussion Points from Staff:

- Student surveys- what happens with this information?
  - It is summarized and reported to the executive council to be disbursed and help better our institutional areas but the companies who provide this data do not always provide this data in a digestible format.
  - Participation is super low- only 10% were responding to the survey.
- Senators can help partner with their department to help increase the participation in the surveys.
- How can we work with their office to better our department?
  - This will be a part of the assessment piece- finding key factors that could help show true effectiveness.

#### United Way- Gina White

- Non-profit to help give back to the community- kick off Monday, October 27th @ 10:30AM in the Library Terrace
- Dr. Heresy will be sending out communication to the campus regarding important dates

#### Reports of Committees

- President- Sara had her meeting with Dr. Castille. They discussed the last meeting and she was positive and receptive to new ways to get in front of staff. They discussed a potential coordinated “golf cart tour” around campus to visit staff. Her next meeting with Dr. Castille is scheduled October 27th- we can send her any topics to discuss in their meeting.
- **No other reports**

#### Old Business

#### Vacancies:

- Business Affairs seat filled by Jamie Mondragon (approved unanimously).

#### New Business

- Resolution 2526-01- C&B change (approved unanimously)
  - Motion to approve by: Senator Welch

- Seconded by: Senator Buford
- Health insurance premiums (\$700+ increase will be pulled out of our paychecks this year)
  - The state negotiates our insurance rates
  - No raises for staff are in the works. This will be brought to Dr. Castille's attention since this is out of the control of the staff.

## Announcements

- **Football game against Troy- Pink out game**
- **Grad Finale will be a 2 day event- Day 1 will be in the Bookstore; Day 2 will be on the 2nd floor of the Hub**
  - Cap and gown pick-up and they will also have an option to purchase rings
- **Hawktober is October 25th-** rebranding this event as a family friendly event rather than just a beer tasting event
- **Alumni travel program-** trips and details can be found on the alumni webpage
- **October 24th-** Alumni will be doing a showing of Hocus Pocus.
- **Trunk or Treat is October 27th 5:00PM-7:00PM-** this will be located on Mitchell Street
- **Volunteer Opportunities:**
  - Alumni Association will need help for the Football Game and tailgate
  - Staff Senate to volunteer at the **Food Bank on November 7th.**

## Open Discussion

- DEI- their office was told to take verbiage out of their materials but was not officially addressed for future measures.
- Juneteenth- Why is this not an established holiday?
- Athletics will be providing comp tickets to faculty and staff for an upcoming event. This event will be announced soon!
- Medria Burford has not had a response regarding the alumni tailgate and allowing this to be a free event to faculty and staff.
- Updated form to have additional perks for staff to use regarding discounts.

## Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: **Senator Welch**
- Seconded by: **Senator Huey**
- Meeting adjourned by President Webb at **11:07AM.**
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19th. at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.