Staff Senate

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for September 2026

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026	**Time: 10:06 AM**	**Location:** ULM Terrace (Library 7th floor)

Attendees	**Senators Present:** Brandon Bruscato, Steven Burnside, Keisha Chambless, Caitlyn Hilliard, Jamie Mondragon, Stephanie Robinson, Alyse Smith and Gina White	**Visitors: Chief of Police Tom Torregrossa** **Senators Excused:** Alaina Herron **Visitors online:** Hilary Tice, Joey McNamara, Joanna Hunter, Melissa Rhodes, Douglissa Harris and Jessica Griggs

Call to Order

- September 2026 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Hilliard at 10:05 AM.
- An attendance sheet was circulated.
- Visitors welcomed by President Hilliard

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- May Meeting minutes were approved virtually. The Senate approved the last meeting's minutes.

Guest Speaker- Police Chief Terrogrossa

- Discussed Act 305 which deals with marijuana usage on school campuses or within 2,000 feet.
- Read and discussed what President Gallot sent discussing the law that went into effect in August.
- The law applies not only to students but also employees.
- The Act enhances the fine and the penalty for smoking and vaping on campus to a $1,000 fine and up to one year in jail.
- Discussed Act 421 this allows for defense sprays on campus.
- Act 965 if you have a pair of META glasses you have to let the person know that you are recording them on campus. This is only for a wearable eye glass.
- Discussed how there are new laws being passed on the reporting of Hazing.

Executive Board Reports

- No reports

Old Business

- Senator Mondragon's appointment to Parliamentarian was approved by virtual vote.
- May 2026 meetings were approved by virtual vote.

New Business

- Data X – Claire Norris
  - Acknowledgement that we are data rich but info poor
  - Systems & processes in place at system level to improve data literacy, governance, & visualization of data

- Transparent definitions, repeatable processes, being understood across functions, single repository
- Gray Data – Allison Thompson

UL System Integration and Transformation Focus Group

- Key processes and functions within your universities that you have visibility to;
- What is working well and where challenges remain;
- Opportunities to improve efficiency and/ or cost-effectiveness;
- Potential uses of technology and artificial intelligence; and
- Benefits and barriers associated with possible improvements.

Interviewed by Dr. Carleen Vande Zande with National Assoc of Higher Ed Systems (NASH)
Consultant who will provide recommendations to the system (will request access to those recommendations)

Centralized systems, not services
Willing to integrate infrastructure & admin services but not sacrifice delivery of services, what gives us individuality & identity as a Univ, HOW we administer services

Recommended joint training & collaboration on shared systems
Professional development

- Management & Leadership Institute
- For Our Future Conference

Staff Senate inclusion at Board of Regents

Convos with admin

- Form repository
- Policy updates & single repository
- Website updates

Council members will be receiving committee assignments & charges soon

- Before next meeting committee assignments will be assigned
- An external compiling data across universities for joint training and collaboration on the systems we have.
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- Working on website updates for ULM and policy and form updates.
- Discussed committees and Senator Gina White was voted for Chair of the Communications Committee.
- Volunteering at the Food Bank and possibly something for our grounds staff and physical plant.

Announcements/Open Discussion

- **Open Discussion:**
  - University Week Feedback
  - Homecoming is next week lots of opportunity for service hours
  - Chili Cookoff will be at the Louisiana Tech Game
  - VAPA has jazz concerts next week and their play starts the 1st through the 4th

Action Items/Next Steps

- Senate photos will be taken after our next meeting
- Next Meeting – October 21, 2026

Adjournment

- There being no other business, President Hilliard called a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Senator White and seconded by Senator Mondragon. Meeting adjourned by President Hilliard at 10:51am.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be held October 21st