



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for March 2026

Date: Wednesday, Mar 25, 2026	Time: 10:00 AM	Location: ULIB 622 Microsoft Teams
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Attendees	Senators Present: Kelley Gentry, Jessica Griggs, Shonnie Hall, Dana Mejia, Wesley Welch, Caitlyn Hilliard, Molly McCullar, Steven Burnside, Jamie Mondragon, Karen Worsley, Keisha Chambless, and Alyse Smith	Senators Excused: Stephanie Robinson
		Senators Absent: Gina White
		Visitors online: Hilary Tice, Melissa Rhodes, Joanna Hunter, Terri Gallien, Linda Ngo, Deb Morse, and Michelle McEacharn

Call to Order

- March 2026 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Hilliard at 10:00 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 Mondragon. The Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes.
- Cindy Foust is our guest speaker this month.
 - Executive Director of ULM Advancement, Foundation, and Alumni
 - Oversight is the foundation, alumni association and advancement of ULM
 - Started as a coordinator on campus and received her degrees from ULM. Her degree from ULM has really groomed her for this current role.
 - The University really sells itself. Your real job is to figure out what speaks to them and to what specifically they want to give back to.
 - Her current initiative is to help clarify and ensure faculty and staff know what the Foundation, Alumni, and Advancement team actually does.
 - Their area greatly helps supports ULM and provides scholarships to our students.
 - ULM has 4 affiliates that all share the same mission to support ULM- creating resources to use to enhance.
 - University Foundation
 - Athletic Foundation
 - Alumni Association
 - Facilities Corp
 - She was born and raised in West Monroe and she is from a Warhawk family.
 - She was also on staff senate for two years.

Reports of Committees

- President Hilliard- She attended the Faculty Senate meeting last week. She will be working on ensuring we are in full compliance with the “open meetings” law.

- Encouraged senators to send out a communication to their area to submit questions to the staff senate to be addressed by upper administration.
- Multiple questions were raised in academic affairs. She thought that these questions might be better handled by a round table discussion with Dr. McEacharn.
- Proposing to connect with Faculty Senate once a month to discuss issues
- Reminder that Dr. McEacharn is going to do a “table talk Wednesdays”. There is a webform to submit to be added to a list to meet and have lunch with the leadership team in an informal setting.
- Senator Huey is no longer with the University.
- The President-Elect, Elections- Nominations will be open April 9th-17th. Elections will be held on April 22nd. This will be available through electronic forms.
 - She has pulled a list of those eligible. We will have the following seats
 - 4 senators from Academic Affairs. We currently have no seats available since we have 4 senators who will be rolling over for the 2026-2027 year.
 - 3 senators from Business Affairs. We will have 2 seats available.
 - 3 senators from the Office of the President. We will have 3 seats available.
 - Reminder to submit volunteer hours.
- No other reports

New Business

- University council will begin meeting very soon but they have not met yet
- Online question submissions:
 - The question was regarding unclassified staff not receiving raises but classified staff have received several raises.
 - Classified staff is civil service. Not all positions can be moved to a classified position. Classified staff have a salary cap. Unclassified staff do not have a salary cap.
 - Question regarding lighting at night time on campus.
 - ULM receives funding from LA BOR for lighting on campus. Students and faculty/staff may submit fix tickets online to address lighting concerns on campus.
 - Appeal for staff appreciation initiatives. Are there any suggestions from the senators for a way to show staff appreciation that is not a cost issue?
 - Staff appreciates the fried chicken Wednesday initiative that Dr. McEacharn is putting together.
 - Maybe a food truck vendor? There are issues involving an outside vendor since it has to be under contract with the University.
 - Picnic in the grove. Brown bag lunch- bring your own lunch.
 - Shuttle/golf carts available for staff who volunteer at athletic events so they are not having to pay for a parking or walking from a long distance to not pay.
 - Departments that are required to attend an event may need to re-evaluate their packaging to accommodate for more parking passes for volunteer
 - Parking spot for a staff member for the week or month.
 - Staff appreciation week.
 - A department popcorn social. Traveling to a department and providing an informational session and popcorn.

Announcements/Open Discussion

- **Open Discussion:**
 - Student Employee week is April 13-17.
 - Submit outstanding student employee by April 1st by 5:00PM. Contact Linda Ngo.

- Justin Moore Concert coming to campus May 1st to the Coliseum. Faculty, staff, and students have discounted tickets.
- Wine over Water is scheduled April 16th. Tickets are currently available. There are plenty of volunteer hours. Kennedy Woods may be connected for volunteering information. Volunteers do get into the event for free. There is usually a 24hr flash sale for faculty and staff discounted tickets.
- VAPA performance of Cinderella is opening March 26-28th 7:00pm and March 29th is at 2:00pm. It is a musical show. Show runs roughly 2 ½ hours.
- OozeBall is scheduled Friday, April 17th. - Contact President Hilliard for group signups.
- April 14th 12:00pm-2:00pm 31 Ambassadors is hosting a lunch social- Free food, t-shirt swap, and waterski show.

Action Items/Next Steps

- Senator nominations April 9-17. Elections will be April 22nd.
- Food Bank of NELA- April 24th at 9:00am. Signup online. President Hilliard will send out the link to register for the event.

Adjournment

- There being no other business, President Hilliard called a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Senator Hall-Trotter and seconded by Senator Burns. Meeting adjourned by President Hilliard at 10:58am.
- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th at 10:00 am in the Library Conference Room 622.