



# Staff Senate Meeting Minutes for February 2024

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, February 21, 2024	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM	<b>Location:</b> ULIB 622   Zoom for Guests
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<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Senators Present:</b> Andrew Hardee, Meghan Olinger, Dana Mejia, Chloë Beaver, Sara Webb, Shane Dykes, James Beinkemper, Eron Bethard, Sabrina McClain, Chris Williams, Kelley Gentry, Ahmaad Solmone, Therese Filhiol, and Cindy Foust.</p>	<p><b>Senators Excused:</b> Sarah Siereveld</p> <p><b>Senators Absent:</b> None</p> <p><b>Visitors:</b> Gina White, Jennifer Huey, John Sutherlin, Melissa Rhodes, Joanna Hunter, LaShina Waren, Natalya Van, Deb Morse, Catherine Estis, Allison Thompson, Jyssica Hattaway, and Joey McNamara.</p>
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### Call to Order

- February 2024 Staff Senate Meeting called to order by President Hardee.
- Roll taken by Secretary Beaver.
- Visitors welcomed by President Hardee.

### Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by President-Elect Mejia to approve the Minutes of the January 2024 meeting. Seconded by Senator Bethard. Senate approves the last meeting’s minutes pending inquiry and correction of the grant amount for Educator’s Rising. Secretary Beaver will contact Dr. Amy Weems to confirm the correct grant amount.

### Guest Speaker(s)

- Gina White, Director of Global & Multicultural Affairs
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has been rebranded as Global & Multicultural Affairs which will combine diversity and inclusion with our multicultural students in an aim to serve the needs of all multicultural students.
  - February is Black History Month. The Office of Global and Multicultural Affairs and the Cultural Diversity Council are hosting the 2024 Black History Month Program which will feature a guest speaker, Victoria Jones, founder of TONE in Memphis, TN, with visual and performing arts provided by the ULM School of Visual and Performing Arts. The Program will be on Friday, February 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Bayou Pointe.
  - Multicultural Week 2024 is March 4-8. Global and Multicultural Affairs will host a week of activities in which staff can participate. The Multicultural Food Festival will be Wednesday, March 6 at 11:00 am. in the Hangar. On Thursday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the Hangar, professors Brooke Foy and Megan Smith will teach a painting class in the theme of “Painting Across the World.” The first 60 participants to register can participate for free. These events are open to all.

### Reports of Committees

- Communications- New Chair being appointed in Continuing Business.
- Constitution & Bylaws- No Report
- Elections- No Report
- Staff Welfare & Handbook- Ongoing annual review of the Unclassified Staff Handbook. The committee is also looking for recommendations on professional development for staff that can be shared with the Professional Learning Center for Faculty and Staff.

### Continuing Business

- Appointment of new Communications Chair
  - New Communications Chair appointed by President Hardee. ISSS Senator Eron Bethard will complete the 2023-2024 term as the Communications Chair.
- Review the ULM Staff Senate Departmental Scholarships website
  - A new “Financials” tab has been added to the ULM Staff Senate webpage showing the Senate budget and expenditures to retain transparency.
  - There is a pending travel expenditure for a Senator to attend the For Our Future conference. Parliamentarian Sara Webb will be attending For Our Future on behalf of the Senate.
  - Parliamentarian Webb recommended that Senators personally send emails to their division constituency about the new Departmental Supplemental Funding Request process. Once the email is drafted, Senators are encouraged to share it with their division constituencies.

### Open Discussion

- No New Business
- Announcements-
  - Lean Positive - Let's Soar! - February 22 at 3:30 p.m. in the Terrace. It is a social climate project and round table discussion. Staff encouraged to attend.
  - Catapult Health Clinic will be March 4-7 to get \$10 a month off health insurance premiums next year. Participants should register online.
  - Educator's Rising is February 29. Senators can volunteer for service hours.
  - National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) announcement – The survey is open to first year and Senior students who receive the NSSE email. They can participate by taking the survey through email or through the link located on the Moodle homepage. The survey is an integral part of continuous improvement and gives students a platform to provide feedback on student engagement both in and out of the classroom. Participants who complete the survey before April 15 will be put into a drawing for a chance to win a free ULM Reserved parking space for the 2024-2025 academic year (some restrictions apply).
  - The Alumni Association has many volunteer opportunities available for staff and Senators this spring. Check the website or email to complete the volunteer packet.
  - The Social Studies Fair is on Thursday, March 7. Volunteers are needed to serve as judges for the event. Senator Filhiol will send an email out soon with instructions on how to volunteer.
  - ULM Women's Basketball- February 22 at 5:00 p.m. & February 24 at 12:00 p.m. (Senior Day)- Fant-Ewing Coliseum
  - ULM Men's Basketball- February 22 at 7:30 p.m. & February 24 at 2:30 p.m. (Senior Day)- Fant-Ewing Coliseum
  - *Crimes of the Heart*, VAPA Spring Play- February 22-24 at 7:30 p.m. & February 25 at 2 p.m.- Spyker Theater
  - Browse on the Bayou- February 24 at 9:00 a.m.- Warhawk Circle

### Adjournment

- There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Senator Bethard and seconded by Senator McClain. Meeting adjourned by President Hardee at 10:37 a.m.
- The next Staff Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in the Library Conference Room 622.