



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 9, 2026 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

- I. Call to Order was promptly at 10 a.m. by Brittany Brissey
- II. **Roll Call – In Attendance:** Brittany Brissey, Grant Stone, Kenneth Roach, Tony Lepore, Kendra Rodgers, Corey Anthony, Austin Gregory, Anna Crawford, Karen Petit, Pleshette Elmore, Talia Samard

Excused absences: Buck Billings, Corey Anthony, Wyatt McInerney
Perrin Rickenbaker was not in attendance – he is leaving employment at the University.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved with one change.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Kenneth to approve the minutes of the January meeting, with a second by Pleshette.
- V. **Chair Report:** Anna reported that Enrollment and Access Management was unable to provide a nomination for the Staff Senate vacancy from their division.
- VI. **Division Announcements:** 1) Academic Affairs – The Art Gallery will have an art reception for the new gallery exhibit; 2) Finance and Administration – New digital signs; 3) Enrollment and Access Management – Marina Proctor is leaving; Marketing and Communications – Promotional efforts have been focused on success of basketball team; Student Affairs – Dr. David Drucker has been named Dean of Students. Residence halls are closing May 6.
- VII. **Committee Updates:** The Professional Development Committee has planned a Professional Development session on May 12 on “Making Excel Work for You,” with Abby Pilgrim, lecturer in the College of Business and Technology,” and future sessions on professional communications and meditation. The Communications Committee offered assistance with the upcoming Employee Appreciation Day.
- VIII. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the business session and begin the executive session was made by Grant, with a second from Pleshette.

Executive Session

- I. **Staff Senate Quarterly:** Efforts are underway to work with the Office of Marketing and Communications to develop a template for the Staff Senate Quarterly.

Staff Senate Mission Statement

The Lander University Staff Senate exists to enhance the welfare of its staff; to serve as a liaison between staff, administration, faculty, and students; and to advise the administration on matters concerning the staff. This focus provides staff a voice to promote a positive, respectful work environment that sustains both personal and professional growth. In support of the university's strategic plan, specifically the goal of remaining an employer of choice, the senate strives foremost to contribute to the overall success of Lander University and its students.

- II. **Committee Adjustments:** Brittany is working on duties of the committees and what works best for Staff Senate. Among the highlights:
- Staff Senate Quarterly: This would be a shared responsibility among Staff Senate and its committees.
 - Employee of the Month award: To be led by the Staff Senate chair.
 - Office Spotlight award: To be led by the Employee Recognition and Appreciation Committee.
 - Staff Senate Elections: To be led by the Communications Committee.
 - Professional Development Programming: To be led by the Professional Development Committee.
 - Fall Festival: To be led by the Employee Appreciation and Recognition Committee and Staff Senate Board.
 - Bare Necessities Food Drive: To be led by the Communications Committee.
- III. **Survey Review:** A survey on the direction of Staff Senate revealed that the majority agree with the direction of the group. Brittany and Anna said that they are open to suggestions for reorganization. Staff Senate members indicated that they would be willing to meet longer during the meeting times to handle business as needed.
- IV. **Staff Appreciation Day:** Staff Senate members will be asked to volunteer and assist as needed. The recommendation was made to continue the practice of having the “shoutout board” to recognize staff members.
- V. **Preparing for Elections:** Elections will be held in June with new term beginning July 1. Per Staff Senate Bylaws, current members can run for another term.
- Bylaw changes were discussed regarding elections.
- VI. **Open Discussion and Planning:** It was suggested that having Pop Up Shops at special events, such as commencement, could be appealing for many people.
- VII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

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