



STAFF SENATE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, January 11, 2024 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

- I. Call to Order was 10:02 AM.
- II. Roll Call – Dawn Lewis, Adam Weyer, Donna Knight, Katie Whatley, Taylor Haigler, Tavares Meadows, Brittany Brissey, Sam Abney, Matthew Moore, Awaili Thomas Quarles, ~~Jeff Reynolds~~, Demario Watts, Jamie Wilson, Laney Dixon, Patrick Moore, Ken Toole
Ex-officio: London Thomas or Kurstin Lacoste (HR), Jessica Partlow (DAC)
- III. Guest Speaker – Boyd Yarbrough
 - a. Dr. Yarbrough thanked the Staff Senate for the invitation to speak at the meeting. He expressed that great things happen when people come together outside of their departments. He appreciates the work the Staff Senate does because a change in every department affects all of the other departments.
 - b. Dr. Yarbrough shared that Student Affairs reaches students in many ways and they openly welcome feedback from around campus. There has been a higher-than-normal turnover in Student Affairs, which has led to promotion opportunities of the following staff members: Ebonee Dendy, Jalysa Green, Demario Watts, Hannah McQueen, Ian Kloss, and LaPorshia Crawford.
 - c. The location of Career Services has moved to the third floor of the Cultural Center with the help of Todd Gambill and Joe Greenthal. They are currently looking for a new Director of Career Services.
 - d. Dr. Yarbrough commended Demario Watts for his work with Homecoming. Homecoming will be February 5 – February 10. This year, Student Affairs will be adding a “Polar Plunge” to Homecoming to raise \$75,000 for student scholarships.
 - e. Student Affairs is constantly looking for ways to improve and is thankful for the Lander family.
- IV. Vote to Approve Prior Minutes
 - a. Dawn Lewis motioned to approve the November minutes. Sam Abney seconded the motion, and the November meeting minutes were approved.
- V. Chair Report
 - a. Staff Senate branding
 - i. Staff Senate Chair Patrick Moore requested that all messages, events, and promotions from the Staff Senate be branded “Lander University” compared to “Lander University Staff Senate”.
- VI. Diversity Advisory Council
 - a. The university will be observing MLK day on Monday, January 15th. The DAC encourages all staff to look out for the emailed flyer with Library resources this month.
- VII. Senate Reports
 - a. Academic Affairs
 - i. Katie Whatley shared that Heather Martin is the new Administrative Assistant in The College of Math and Science. Academic Affairs would like to thank Chelsea Driver for filling in while this position was being filled. Perrin Rickenbaker is the new Administrative Specialist in the College of Arts and Humanities.

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.

- b. Athletics
 - i. Jamie Wilson reported there will be 17 different home games during Homecoming week. December 17, Athletics held a GPA game, announcing all student athletes over a 3.0 GPA.
- c. Finance & Administration
 - i. Matthew Moore reported there was a position change in ITS – Tanner Stone is now on the Network team.
- d. Enrollment & Access Management
 - i. Laney Dixon reported that Financial Aid has hired a new counselor and Admissions has hired two new counselors. Admissions Counselors will start Spring recruitment travel soon. The enrollment drop date is Wednesday, January 17.
- e. President’s Office
 - i. Dawn Lewis reported the State legislature is back in session, and Lander is working on proposals for them. They are searching for a new videographer and working on homecoming projects.
- f. Student Affairs
 - i. Demario Watts reported Student Affairs will be sending out requests for Homecoming volunteers. He shared that faculty and staff can create homecoming teams and encouraged the senate to participate in the homecoming events and tailgate.
- g. Student Experience and Quality Assurance
 - i. Brittany Brissey shared that the SSC is working on students schedules, reaching out to students for enrollment, and finalizing events for this semester.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Employee Appreciation and Recognition
 - i. Taylor Haigler discussed updating the door prizes for the Spring Employee Appreciation Breakfast. She also discussed purchasing an Office Spotlight award that can be passed around each month to the recognized offices.
- b. Elections
 - i. Matt Moore discussed his plans to meet with Staff Senate chair Patrick Moore to confirm the electronic voting is good. The elections committee plans to announce Staff Senate Elections in February. Matt Moore shared concerned with the low number of nominations last year.
- c. Professional Development
 - i. Demario Watts reported the Professional Development committee has three upcoming “Lunch and Learn” events: January 24, 2024 on Financial Literacy, February 21, 2024 on Moving Up/Next Steps, and March 20, 2024 on Positivity in the workplace. All of these will be held in the Centennial Multipurpose room from 12pm – 1pm.
- d. Communications and Bylaws
 - i. Dawn Lewis reported that she is posting the Office Spotlights on the campus TVs and is waiting on the emails from the Employee Appreciation and Recognition committee to send out campus-wide emails.
- e. Community Partnership
 - i. Awaili Thomas-Quarles shared a thank you note for Lander’s participation in the Christmas Angel Tree project.
 - ii. Katie Whatley reported there will be another trash cleanup day on Monday, January 15th (MLK day) at 9:30am starting at the Jeff May Complex.

IX. Old Business

- a. There was no old business to report.

X. New Business

- a. Patrick Moore shared there has been a request for the Staff Senate to loo into golf club discounts for Lander employees. The senate expressed some concerns in this, and the discussion was tabled.
- b. Patrick Moore expressed his thanks to the Staff Senate for the work they do.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Sam Abney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matt Moore seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:54am.

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