



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

- I. Call to Order was promptly at 10 a.m. Anna Crawford
- II. **Roll Call:** Perrin Rickenbaker, Grant Stone, Kenneth Roach, Anthony Lepore, Kendra Rodgers, Corey Anthony, Austin Gregory, Anna Crawford, Karen Petit, Pleshette Elmore, Wyatt McInerney, Kendra Rodgers

Excused absences: Buck Billings, Jake Lucas, Talia Samard, Brittany Brissey
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Perrin to approve the minutes of the January meeting, with a second by Pleshette.
- IV. **Chair Report:** Anna reported that Brittany's son Everett was born Dec. 11.

She updated Staff Senate on the results of the holiday food drive for the Bear Necessities Food Pantry. Faculty edged out the Staff in the drive, and food items were delivered Jan. 7.

Vacancies for Staff Senate include: 1, Division of Finance and Administration; 1, Division of Enrollment and Access Management.

The vacancy for the Division of Finance and Administration could be filled by the division Vice President or held until June 2026 for a vote.
- V. **Division Announcements:** 1) Academic Affairs – Students return to class Monday, Jan. 12, for spring semester. 2) Athletics – Dale Parker stepped down as men's soccer coach; the spring athletics schedule will be busy. 3) Finance and Administration – No report. 4) Enrollment and Access Management has new hires. 5) Marketing and Communications – Karen reported that the office has moved Uptown to the former Bank of America Building. 6) Student Engagement and Quality Assurance – Open house will be held Feb. 21.
- VI. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the business session and begin the executive session was made by Kendra, with a second from Kenneth.

Executive Session

- I. **Election Announcements:** Anna said the chair-elect will send emails to Staff Senate regarding election information.
- II. **Committee Updates:** Kenneth reported that the Professional Development Committee would meet later in the month to discuss professional development events for the year.

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.

Staff Senate discussed the launch of a newsletter and how often it should be published. Karen volunteered to assist with the newsletter but would need assistance with formatting.

Discussion included what should be included, including a Vice President's section in which interview questions could be sent and then put in the newsletter, as well as staff accolades, the Office Spotlight and Employee of the Month.

III. Open Discussion and Planning:

Staff Senate discussed planning activities for the year, including Professional Development (January – March); Employee Appreciation Day (April – May); Fall Festival Planning (September – October); Bear Necessities Food Drive (November), Reflection (December).

IV. Adjournment: Staff Senate adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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