



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

- I. Call to Order was promptly at 10 a.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Perrin Rickenbaker, Grant Stone, Buck Billings, Kenneth Roach, Anthony Lepore, Corey Anthony, Austin Gregory, Jake Lucas, Anna Crawford, Karen Petit, Pleshette Elmore, Wyatt McInerney, Talia Samard, Brittany Brissey

Excused absences: Kendra Rodgers, Ryan Murdock
- III. **Administrative Report:** Adam Taylor, Chief of Staff & Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Adam reported that Lander had record-breaking enrollment numbers for Fall 2025. With 4,589 students, which includes students enrolled in graduate and online studies, the University has almost 2,000 more students than it did in 2015. He credited some of the increase on the fact that in-state tuition has been frozen for 10 years – an accomplishment that no other college or university in South Carolina can claim.

Ninety percent of Lander students are from South Carolina, which Adam said, shows the South Carolina General Assembly that “we stick to our mission” of educating the young people of the state.

Among other numbers: 793 students at Lander are from Greenwood County; students come from all of South Carolina’s 46 counties; 82 percent of alumni reside in South Carolina.

Housing for the Fall 2025 semester is at full capacity. He said that Lander is looking at the future of housing for students, with the possibility of a new residence hall under consideration.

Lander has approximately 650 employees, including faculty and part-time and full-time staff.

The new nursing building will be turned over to the University in June and will be ready for classes in 2026. The University has received a \$2.4 million grant to complete the building with state-of-the-art equipment.

Construction on the new Information Commons building is expected to begin by the end of the year and is expected to take about one year to complete.

The former Bank of America building in Uptown Greenwood is being renovated and will be home to the Office of Graduate and Online Studies, as well as having a public space on the first floor.

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.

- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Jake to approve the minutes of the September meeting, with a second by Kenneth Roach.
- V. **Chair Report:** Brittany Brissey said that Staff Senate is making a difference on campus. She said that the Fall Festival would take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, on the Plaza to ensure that all employees would be allowed to participate in activities.
- Among the activities planned: Scavenger hunt, self-service photo station, gratitude board, coloring area, games, snacks and refreshments and a pumpkin-decorating contest for 20 entries.
- Because of assistance from Adam Taylor, the cost to Staff Senate is expected to be about \$100.
- VI. **Division Announcements:** 1) Athletics has staff changes; 2) Enrollment and Access Management reported that this was the last day to apply for graduation. A Grad Fair will be held Oct. 15 in the Cultural Center; 4) Marketing and Communications: The office is reporting a growing social media presence; 5) Dean of Students reported that there would be a fall event the second week of November; Greek Week is underway with a number of activities planned across campus; and 6) Student Experience reports that students went to an Atlanta Braves game and plans are for a future trip for a Charlotte Hornets game.
- VII. **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Perrin for the Staff Senate to adjourn the regular meeting and have an executive session. Pleshette made a second to the motion.

Executive Session

- I. **Committee Updates:** It was discussed that the Office Spotlight nominations would be campus wide. A framed certificate, suitable for hanging in the winning office, will be given.

Ken Roach reported that a survey is being developed to determine what types of professional development programs staff would want to have, with two programs planned for the spring and one planned for the summer.

- II. **Fall Fest 2025:** Brittany discussed the details for the Fall Festival and the areas needing volunteers, including the printing of coloring sheets, getting the photo backdrop from Admissions, and getting/placing the games for the Plaza.

On the day of the event, set up is scheduled for 9 – 10:45 a.m.; staff are needed for the Scavenger Hunt stations, and clean up is needed from 2 – 3 p.m. In the food area, there will be stations for do-it-yourself candy apples and trail mix bags, and other treats will include doughnuts and hot chocolate, coffee and cider.

The judging for the pumpkin decorating contest will begin at 11:15 a.m.

- III. **Bearcat Necessities Drive:**

Brittany reported that she had talked with Jason Lee and Chase Worley about a collaboration with

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Staff Senate to collect nonperishable food items and hygiene items for the Bear Necessities food pantry, which also needs paper towels, tissues and other home items. Items will be collected between Dec. 2 – 12.

IV. Open Discussion and Planning for Committees: An election is needed to replace Brittany Chadwick for the chair-elect position. Nominations are needed by the November meeting.

V. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

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