



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, May 9, 2024 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

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- I. Call to Order was 10:01 AM.
- II. Roll Call – Dawn Lewis, Adam Weyer, Donna Knight, ~~Katie Whitley~~, Taylor Haigler, ~~Favores 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 – Joe Greenthal
  - a. Joe Greenthal shared updates from the Finance & Administration Division with the Staff Senate. Employees can now advocate for their previous budget, along with additional funds if needed, which moves through a leadership review process. Finance & Administration is working on year-end tasks such as upcoming form deadlines. The state has yet to provide information on available capital, raises, and tuition mitigation. The House and the Senate are currently working on salary increases for state employees.
  - b. The new budget is helping reduce unnecessary expenses, allowing for more focus on campus needs and better tracking of spending – resulting in significant savings for the university.
  - c. There are currently 15 active major capital projects totaling \$36 million, including the dining hall renovations, dormitory upgrades, a new nursing building, campus ventilation, the Bank of America building, a new library commons, a new sports complex sign, and IT improvements.
  - d. Finance & Administration is working on collaborations with the Lander Foundation to enhance the university endowment. Policy improvements and financial accountability are being held to high standards to ensure both business success and educational excellence. Joe stated, “Lander can be both: a successful business, and a successful institution of higher education”.
- IV. Vote to Approve March & April Minutes
  - a. Dawn Lewis made a motion to approve the March and April minutes. Brittany Brissey seconded the motion, and the March and April minutes were approved.
- V. Chair Report
  - a. Staff Senate Chair, Patrick Moore, did not have a report.
- VI. Diversity Advisory Council
  - a. May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. HR encouraged the senate to be on the lookout for an email
- VII. Senate Reports
  - a. Academic Affairs
    - i. none
  - b. Athletics
    - i. Jamie Wilson shared that Athletics are interviewing a new women’s rugby and women’s basketball coach.
  - c. Finance & Administration

### 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.

- i. Awaili Thomas Quarles shared that faculty and staff can now purchase reserved parking with LUPD.
- d. Enrollment & Access Management
  - i. Laney Dixon shared that the Office of Admissions is hiring a new Admissions Counselor to cater towards Hispanic and Latinx students. The Office of Financial Aid is looking for two new Financial Aid Counselors and is currently working on students' financial aid packages. The Registrars Office just completed graduation with an estimate of ~700 students this Spring.
- e. President's Office
  - i. Dawn Lewis shared that University Relations is posting information on recent events and ceremonies.
- f. Student Affairs
  - i. Student Affairs did not have a report.
- g. Student Experience and Quality Assurance
  - i. Brittany Brissey shared that Kayla Burgess is leaving the Student Success Center. They will be looking for a new Academic Advisor soon.

## VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Employee Appreciation and Recognition
  - i. Taylor Haigler shared that the May Office Spotlight is the Office of Information Technology Services. She encouraged the senate to recognize them if they see them. She recognized the communications committee for sending out the Office Spotlight graphic.
  - ii. Staff Senate birthday cards are on hold. The committee has run out of cards, and the print shop is closed.
  - iii. Taylor mentioned it would be helpful to have an updated list of staff with their birthdays and hire dates. The committee is currently using a list pulled from ITS in February. Kurstin Lacoste shared that HR could assist with this.
  - iv. The committee is working on ordering the Employee of the Month awards for the HR Staff Excellence Day. The senate discussed changing the plaques to small acrylic awards.
- b. Elections
  - i. Matt Moore shared that the senate is struggling to receive nominations for the 2024-2025 Staff Senate. He encouraged the senate to think of potential candidates from their division.
- c. Professional Development
  - i. Sam Abney shared the last professional development event was Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> on "Leveling up in Leadership" by Caleb Polatty. This event concludes the professional development events for the year.
- d. Communications and Bylaws
  - i. Communications and Bylaws did not have a report.
- e. Community Partnership
  - i. Community Partnerships did not have a report.

## IX. Old Business

- a. None to report.

## X. New Business

- a. Sam Abney reminded the Senate that she sent out a link in the senate teams to track door prizes for the HR Staff Excellence Day and encouraged the senate to work on soliciting door prizes.
- b. Kurstin Lacoste shared updates on the HR Staff Excellence Day. She has the gift bags for the door prizes and is working on the schedule of events for the day. She reminded the senate that nominations are due this week for staff excellence awards.

## XI. Adjournment

- a. Taylor Haigler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ken Toole seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 10:54am.

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