

Staff Senate Minutes

December 7, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Kristian Thompson called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Thursday December 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in a hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual online meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

**Senators Present:**

Sabrina Anwar  
Rachel Broussard  
Bethany Brown  
Deidra Dillard  
Slade Dupuy

Julie Ennis  
Connie Herring  
Kim Hilliard  
Kacie Lopez  
Whitney Moore

Tanda Morrison  
Tammy Rye  
Miranda Senn  
Kristian Thompson

**Senators Absent:**

Peggy Ayers  
Amber Jacimore

Katie Hook  
Krystal Manning

Cody Neal  
Scott Tomlin

**Visitor(s):**

Angela Westbrook  
Brandi  
Ilona Davidson  
Julia Pope  
Kaylin Telford

Kim McKown  
Lydia Rogers  
Melissa Riffle  
Stephanie Swatzel  
Victoria Tomlin

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the November 2, 2023 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Senator Dillard filed a motion to accept the minutes with the intent to revise a vocabulary word. Senator Broussard seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

**Senate Discussion**

Our first discussion topic was to welcome our newest senate member, Bethany Brown! Bethany works in the controller’s office and we are very excited to have her on board.

Next, we discussed the issue regarding our new senate positions and when to fill them. We had previously brought it up and mentioned to start thinking about if we wanted to fill them now or wait until the natural election period to fill them. A motion was made by Senator Herring to hold off on the elections until May. The motion was seconded by Senator Morrison. The motion passed. We will start to collect nominations and fill positions in May. If there are any questions or concerns regarding this motion, please let us know!

We also talked about the Staff Senate Survey. Please remind your department(s) to complete the survey. We would love if everyone participated so we can have a clear picture of how our staff feels at work.

As a group, we all decided that since there isn’t much time between now and the break, there won’t be anything to discuss in our January meeting so we have canceled the January meeting. Our next meeting will be February 1<sup>st</sup>.

With the new website up and running, we have realized that we are still missing several Senator headshots. If you have one, please send it to Connie Herring so she can get it online. If you don’t have a headshot to send her, please contact Melanie Paterak about scheduling a time with her to get those taken.

Lastly, there has been interest in ATU hosting a “Market Days” for their students, employees, and alumni. Essentially, it would be held in Tucker and individuals could set up booths to sell their homemade crafts and goods. This would only be for individuals related to ATU in some way. It could be a great way to get the community involved and on our campus. We would like to have a more in-depth conversation about it at our next meeting. So, until then, just let the idea float around and see what we think about it.

**Concerns & Questions brought to Staff Senate**

If we are not able to work during the eclipse due to internet outages, will we be required to use our time off to make up for the time?	No, it will be just like if Blackboard or anything else went down. You will not be required to use your own time off to compensate the time off.
If I do not want to use my vacation or holiday time during the Christmas holidays, can I take time off without pay?	According to Arkansas State Law, employees may not take leave without pay until all of their leave has been exhausted except for the following circumstances: maternity leave, inclement

	weather as designated by state policy, active-duty military leave, budget reductions as determined by university president, and university disciplinary actions according to the university's policies. AKA, unless you are out of leave time, you cannot go without pay for the Holiday Break.
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**Meeting Adjourned**

At 9:15 am Senator Moore made a motion to adjourn, and Senator Herring seconded. President Thompson concluded the December 7, 2023 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Whitney Moore, Secretary

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