

Staff Senate Minutes

November 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Tomlin called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Thursday November 6, 2025 at 9:01 a.m. in a hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual online meeting.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present:

Amy Anderson
Joceline Argueta
Megan Bell
Jenna Bradley
Kate Darr
Andrea Eubanks
Matt Frasier

Amanda Gardner
Shelly Hall
Kim Hilliard
Katie Hook
Kacie Lopez
Whitney Moore
Tanda Morrison

Cody Neal
Austin Norman
Cesiley Rideau
Nick Schluterman
Melissa South
Mackenzie Taylor
Scott Tomlin

Senators Absent:

Rachel Broussard
Bethany Brown
Madisyn Chance

Bonnie Freeman
Connie Herring

Visitor(s):

Eric Walker
Julia Pope
Kim McKown
Kimberly Turner
Maranda Marin

Shanteal Scott
Slade Dupuy
Susan Johnson
Valli Ashcraft
Elon Tomlin

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the October 2, 2025 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Senator Rideau filed a motion to accept the minutes. Senator Anderson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

Senate Discussion

The idea of a Benevolent Fund for staff has come to our attention. This idea would sort of follow what students have in the Mr. Tommy fund. This is a pool of money a student can apply for in times of need with the intention to pay it back to allow another student the same opportunity. So like the Mr. Tommy fund, Staff Senate has the opportunity to create a fund with the same intentions. It would be a small, stop gap fund that an employee could apply for in times of small financial crisis. A committee would be formed to review applications and award those that were approved. President Tomlin wants the senate to think about it, let the idea marinate, and it is something we can talk about more, if we so choose, in the spring.

For our December meeting, President Tomlin pitched the idea of having as many of us to gather in person as possible and doing an end of year potluck/camaraderie. The senate felt that would be a fun way to end the semester and calendar year. We will be meeting in Rothwell 311 from 8-11am.

The senate also discussed our January meeting. The past few years we have forgone that meeting since we are gone so much in December AND the meeting typically occurs on the first week back to work. There usually isn't anything to discuss in that meeting. President Tomlin asked if there were any motions to cancel the meeting. Vice President Hilliard made a motion and senator Schluterman seconded it. The senate then voted on the motion with a unanimous decision to cancel the January Staff Senate meeting.

Faculty/Staff Ugly Holiday Sweater Party will be December 4th in the Hull Student Union from 2-4pm. Cross Country won the Great American Conference for the first time in history. Basketball and volleyball are in full swing so come by and watch a game if you are on campus.

Committee Updates:

- Campus Space & Utilization
 - No update
- Emergency Management & Safety
 - No update
- International Travel Advisory Council
 - Committee approved a trip to Germany
 - Led by Dr. Shojaei for students in mechanical and electrical engineering as well as physics.
 - Dates expected to be July 15-August 14
 - Previously approved Paris trip has been amended to Belgium
 - Students will be there teaching English from May 8-June 8
 - Committee has approved both and they are awaiting approval from Dr. Santos

- Technology Prioritization
 - No update
- Insurance, Benefits, & Wellness
 - Kathleen rehashed the new changes to the plan details that can be expected at Open Enrollment and she went over the new salary tiers for 2026 benefits.
 - There are still 2 dates left to meet with HR regarding your benefits before Open Enrollment is over
 - The Wellness incentive will start over in January
 - Use any earned wellness days before we leave for Winter Break or you will lose them
- Presidential Communication
 - Early registration has started for Spring 2026
 - Graduation dates have been announced and posted
 - Common course numbering will be live in Fall 2027
 - Updates were given about all of the open positions that are on everyone's minds
- Budget Advisory
 - No big updates
 - Banner side of things has the accounts open for VPs to enter their budget requests
- Campus Council
 - Officers were elected and appointed
 - Entertained the possibility of forming a Camps Committee to help mitigate some of the reoccurring issues that happen with summer camps
 - Scheduling and space conflicts
- Staff Senate Fundraising
 - 30 copies have been sold!
 - We have officially broken even with printing costs so the rest is all profit for the Faculty/Staff Scholarship
- Faculty/Staff Senate Waiver
 - No update
- Faculty Senate Collaboration
 - A committee has been formed to align Staff and Faculty view on longevity pay increases

Meeting Adjourned

At 9:40 am Vice President Hilliard made a motion to adjourn, and Senator Darr seconded. President Tomlin concluded the November 6, 2025 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Whitney Moore, Secretary