

CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Tomlin called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in a hybrid meeting held via WebEx and in RCB 355.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present:

Amy Anderson
Joceline Argueta
Megan Bell
Jenna Bradley
Rachel Broussard
Bethany Brown
Madisyn Chance

Kate Darr
Bonnie Freeman
Amanda Gardner
Shelly Hall
Connie Herring
Kim Hilliard
Kacie Lopez

Tanda Morrison
Cody Neal
Austin Norman
Nick Schluterman
Melissa South
Mackenzie Taylor
Scott Tomlin

Senators Absent:

Andrea Eubanks
Matt Frasier

Katie Hook
Whitney Moore

Cesiley Rideau

Visitors:

Marcia Brown
Marla Collier
Erin Conrad
Traci Halsted
Miranda Marin

Chelsea Martin
Kim McKown
Amber Meeks
Alexis Scrimshire
Kim Tate

Jennifer Taylor
Kimberly Turner
Eric Walker
Alisa Waniewski

Special Guests:

Dr. Alexis Johnson
Kathleen Martin

A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the February 5, 2026 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Senator Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Anderson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

Guest Speakers

- Center for Faculty Life & Human Resources Presentation
 - Dr. Johnson (Center for Faculty LIFE) and Kathleen Martin (Human Resources) presented information regarding upcoming half-day professional development opportunities for faculty and staff at an event entitled *Tech Talks* on Thursday, May 7 from 8 am – 12 pm.
 - Sessions will be presented in Rothwell, Brown, and via Webex and a light breakfast will be provided.

- Presentations on any relevant topic such as leadership, communication, technology, wellness or student support are welcomed.
- ATU faculty and staff who have an interest in sharing their expertise, experience or innovative ideas are encouraged to submit their proposals by Friday, April 10. Co-presenters are welcome.
- Kathleen also requested ideas to increase benefits at ATU, such as creative ways to share “fun” knowledge.

Strategic Plan Updates

- President Tomlin opened the floor for the representatives to provide updates from their respective focus areas:
 - Campus Infrastructure and Financial Resources (Melissa South)
 - Discussion focused on identifying new revenue opportunities, including relocating departments, selling unused property, renting space for events, reducing third party marketing, and expanding recruitment efforts in underrepresented areas.
 - Employee Support, Morale and Retention (Nick Schluterman)
 - Discussion included potential initiatives such as employee recognition parking, on-campus childcare, longevity pay, recording key campus meetings, supervisor training, and *Tech Talks* programming.

Old Business & Committee Reports

- Campus Space & Utilization
 - Senator South has been added to the group. Meetings occur on an as needed basis.
- Emergency Management & Safety
 - Senator Anderson has been added to the group. Meetings occur on an as needed basis.
- International Travel Advisory Council
 - No report.
- Technology Prioritization
 - No report. Senator Schluterman has not received communication from the committee. The status of this committee will be reviewed.
- Insurance, Benefits, & Wellness
 - Senator Herring reported this group is a subcommittee of Employee Support, Morale, and Retention. Suggestions for improving employee benefits may be submitted to her by March 13.
- Presidential Communication
 - President Tomlin reported the opening of the Ferguson Student Union on March 18 at 2 pm. Staff will have access to a trial membership from May 11-June 30, Monday-Thursday 6:30 am to 8 pm, Friday 6:30 am to 5 pm, closed on Saturday, and Sunday 4 pm to 8 pm. Dean Cass will be offering spin classes. STEM received a large grant, FFA will be on campus March 12, HR hosted the Employee Appreciation Day March 4, performance evaluations are due March 31, spring sports are ongoing.
- Budget Advisory
 - No report.

- Campus Council
 - Vice President Hilliard reported they will meet next on April 23. They will be meeting about defining shared governance. A draft of the shared governance definition was shared in the WebEx group chat for review and feedback. The finalized definition will be shared in the faculty handbook, staff handbook, and student handbook. The Campus Council website is now live.
- Faculty/Staff Waiver Committee
 - No report.
- Staff Senate Fundraising Committee
 - Senator South reported that she has the cookbooks in her office. She intends to have them available for purchase at the retired faculty and staff luncheon on April 23.
- Faculty Senate Collaboration
 - President Tomlin reported that Dr. Brucker, Dr. Rogers, and Dr. Clark are meeting with President Jones to present recommendations addressing salary compression and equity issues at ATU. The recommendations document was shared in the WebEx group chat.
- Benevolent Fund Ad Hoc Committee
 - No report.
- Staff Survey Ad Hoc Committee
 - President Tomlin reported prior survey data has been reviewed. Updated questions will be presented to President Jones, and efforts are underway to establish a standardized survey schedule.

New Business

- AI guiding principles document was dropped into the WebEx group chat prior to the meeting for review. Feedback may be directed to ai@atu.edu. Dr. Clark is expected to attend the April meeting. Current AI issues and concerns that the AI committee is working to address were briefly discussed.
- Staff Senate officer nominations and elections will take place in April. Current officers are not eligible to serve in the next term. Senator elections will occur in May, with results announced in June.
- ATU will operate on a condensed work week schedule during spring break, summer, and December break until otherwise noted.

Announcements

- New students entering ATU for the first time can begin registering in May. Faculty and staff with a special student in their life may reach out to Marika Lederman in the Academic Advising Center for a VIP registration appointment. Registration for current students is open, and reminders were given to encourage advising appointments.
- Employee Appreciation Game Day is tentatively scheduled for April 7.

Meeting Adjourned

At 9:50 a.m. Senator Herring made a motion to adjourn, and Senator Taylor seconded. President Tomlin adjourned the March 5, 2026 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanda Morrison, Reporter

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