

CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Tomlin called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 9:01 a.m. in a hybrid meeting held via WebEx and in RCB 355.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present:

Amy Anderson
Joceline Argueta
Megan Bell
Bethany Brown
Madisyn Chance
Andrea Eubanks

Matt Fraser
Bonnie Freeman
Shelly Hall
Connie Herring
Kim Hilliard
Kacie Lopez

Tanda Morrison
Austin Norman
Cesiley Rideau
Nick Schluterman
Scott Tomlin

Senators Absent:

Jenna Bradley
Rachel Broussard
Kate Darr

Amanda Gardner
Katie Hook
Whitney Moore

Cody Neal
Melissa South
Mackenzie Taylor

Visitors:

Vallie Ashcraft
Dalton Brock
Marcia Brown
Ashley Bryant
Slade Dupuy
Jennifer Fleming

Evalisbeth Garcia-
Diazbarriga
Kathleen Martin
Tonya Mays
Kim McKown
Amber Meeks

Tammy Rye
Victoria Tomlin
Giselle Torres
Kimberly Turner
Amee Virden
Eric Walker

Special Guests:

Dr. Jones
Wyatt Watson

President Jones Presentation

President Jones presented salary history and changes over the past 8 years. He announced a one time, 1% bonus that will be on May's check. Funding for this bonus came from selling some ATU property. Historical data for CUPA salary percentages was presented. President Jones also provided various examples of how he could allocate funds for CUPA percentages vs. bonuses. He mentioned that he will be seeking feedback from the Staff Senate and their constituencies on how to allocate potential funds for raises in FY 27. Finding funding for bonuses or salary increases is a challenge to balance tuition increases for students, and also the rising cost of health care rates. The university is investigating the option for self-insuring to compare the rates. There is also the possibility of it being more beneficial for the funds to go to not increasing employee's share of insurance rates, instead of getting raises.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the April 2, 2026 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Vice President Hilliard made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Schluterman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

Old Business & Committee Reports

- Campus Space & Utilization
 - No report.
- Emergency Management & Safety
 - Senator Anderson reported that two lighted crosswalks are being added on campus similar to the one that is currently in front of Doc Bryan. One will be added in front of Brown and Rothwell, and the other will be near the library. They are starting a camera project in Nutt Hall. AED's will be added or updated across campus. Two evacuation chairs similar to the one in the library will be added to Doc Bryan.
- International Travel Advisory Council
 - No report.
- Technology Prioritization
 - No report.
- Insurance, Benefits, & Wellness
 - Senator Eubanks reported that the committee is investigating the option of becoming self-insured as an institution. Dr. James Di Naso presented a training and wellness benefit, where graduate assistants in the HPE program work with faculty and staff on wellness initiatives such as correcting their diet or losing weight for free. Those interested can reach out to Dr. Di Naso to be put on the list. More information can be found at <https://www.atu.edu/hr/employeewellness.php>.
- Presidential Communication
 - President Tomlin reported that staff have free access to the Ferguson Student Union recreation center until June 30. Various camps will be on campus this summer. Admin & Finance announced that all documents have to be uploaded to the state by June 1. No P card or requisitions after June 1, and deliveries must arrive by June 1. Steve Milligan announced an update on computer labs and noted an uptick in phishing attacks. Drew Dickey announced some summer projects including the carpet replacement on the 2nd floor of the library, renovating the 2nd floor of Witherspoon, along with the central green space on the south side of the library. Enrollment Management announced Level Up will be held on June 4.
- Budget Advisory
 - No report.
- Campus Council
 - Vice President Hilliard reported that Campus Council voted to postpone electing new officers until the August meeting to allow the SGA to elect their representatives. This year university camps are expanding their website, and it will include new training modules for anyone who is interested in running a camp.
- Faculty/Staff Waiver Committee

- President Tomlin reported that the latest version of the update was submitted to campus council and the details were discussed. Proposed changes will be presented soon, with the goal of presenting it to the Board of Trustees in October.
- Faculty Senate Collaboration
 - No report.
- Benevolent Fund Ad Hoc Committee
 - No report.
- Staff Survey Ad Hoc Committee
 - President Tomlin reported that the survey questions were provided to Dr. Jones for feedback and suggestions.

New Business

- Move-in Day change concerns are being reviewed and President Tomlin is reaching out for more information.
- New Senator Orientation will be during the Staff Senate meeting in June. New senators will be invited to join the current senators for a potluck and to discuss the transition.

Announcements

- Nominations for Staff Senate were opened on May 13 and will remain open until May 20. Voting will begin May 26 until June 1.
- Tech ID and a signed waiver on Vector are required to access the student union recreation center.
- Condensed work week hours begin this week.
- Congratulations to the staff graduating this semester.

Meeting Adjourned

At 9:53 a.m. Vice President Hilliard made a motion to adjourn, and Senator Schluterman seconded. President Tomlin adjourned the May 14, 2026 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanda Morrison, Reporter