

## Staff Senate Minutes

July 3, 2025

### CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Tomlin called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Thursday July 3, 2025 at 9:02 a.m. in a hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual online meeting.

### ROLL CALL

#### Senators Present:

Amy Anderson  
Megan Bell  
Jenna Bradley  
Rachel Broussard  
Madisyn Chance  
Matt Frasier

Bonnie Freeman  
Amanda Gardner  
Kim Hilliard  
Kacie Lopez  
Whitney Moore  
Austin Norman

Cesiley Rideau  
Nick Schluterman  
Melissa South  
Scott Tomlin

#### Senators Absent:

Joceline Argueta  
Bethany Brown  
Kate Darr  
Andrea Eubanks  
Shelly Hall

Connie Herring  
Katie Hook  
Tanda Morrison  
Cody Neal  
Mackenzie Taylor

#### Visitor(s):

Alexis Scrimshire  
Alisa Waniewski  
Chelsea Martin  
Eric Walker  
Lyndsay Scallion  
Marcia Brown

Michael Bradley  
Michan Chowritmootoo  
Susan Johnson  
Traci Halsted  
Valli Ashcraft

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the June 5, 2025 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Senator Frasier filed a motion to accept the minutes. Senator Broussard seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

### **Senate Discussion**

President Tomlin wanted to start by welcoming all of our new senators to their first meeting. We are looking forward to a wonderful and productive year! On the same note, he wanted to thank the exiting senators for their hard work and service.

Additionally, there are 26 weeks left in the year, as of this meeting, so if you haven't started entering your physical activity into your Employee Wellness tracker, now is the time to start. As a reminder, completing 30 minutes of physical activity 3x a week for 24 weeks will earn you an extra 8 hours of paid time off. You can only enter activity as far back as 14 days. An additional 8 hours is awarded to employees that go to see their PCP or doctor for a wellness screening.

Tomorrow, we will be getting paid 8 hours for full time employees for holiday pay. With that being said, you should have been working 8-hour days this week rather than 9 for the compressed work weeks. If you have worked 9-hour days, please get with your supervisor on how to go about adjusting your time today.

New senators, and returning that have not already done so, need to send Tanda Morrison, [tpatrick@atu.edu](mailto:tpatrick@atu.edu), or Staff Senate, [staffsenate@atu.edu](mailto:staffsenate@atu.edu), a copy of your headshot to include on the website. If you do not have one, please get with MARCOMM about getting on the schedule for the next round of headshots.

Next, we took volunteers to fill holes that were left by the senators that just rolled off for some of our standing committees. If you are interested in joining any of the committees that Staff Senate is involved in, please let us know and we can get you integrated to those.

The cookbook has gone through it's second printed proof. The senate looked at it and pointed out any potential errors that may have been missed. Next steps are looking for sponsors to get it printed, if we get any, we will add a sponsor's page added to the book, then we will print and sell them.



### **Concerns & Questions brought to Staff Senate**

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| Can the career service bonus be distributed in a check separate from our pay check? As is, taxes eat up the majority of the bonus since they are lumped together. This is how career service bonuses used to be distributed, so can we do it again?  | Since 2008, these checks have been combined. Overall, it doesn't impact your taxes because at the end of the year, you will get money back if you paid too much or have to pay in if you didn't pay enough. Regardless, this money will be taxed. In the short term, it may seem like more but in the long term, it is taxed the same amount. |
| Why are we not off for Juneteenth? It is a federal holiday so why do we not recognize it?  | Juneteenth is a federal holiday and not yet recognized by the state of Arkansas. As such, we are not able to close the campus for this holiday. However, you are welcome to request this day off with your supervisor and use some of your banked PTO.  |
| Can FAMA Staff, specifically custodial services, have designated parking spots? They have to use their own vehicles to travel between buildings and to transport materials. Usually, when FAMA is arriving to a location, all of the spots close by are full. This is especially true for dorm buildings. The problem becomes even worse in extreme weather (heat, cold, rain, etc.) | This concern was brought to us the day before the meeting. We hope to have an answer to this by the next meeting.   |

### **Meeting Adjourned**

At 9:22 am Senator Frasier made a motion to adjourn, and Senator Bradley seconded. President Tomlin concluded the July 3, 2025 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Whitney Moore, Secretary