

Staff Senate Minutes

September 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Tomlin called the Arkansas Tech University Staff Senate meeting to order on Thursday September 4, 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
Rachel Broussard
Bethany Brown
Madisyn Chance

Kate Darr
Andrea Eubanks
Bonnie Freeman
Amanda Gardner
Connie Herring
Kim Hilliard
Katie Hook

Kacie Lopez
Whitney Moore
Tanda Morrison
Austin Norman
Nick Schluterman
Melissa South
Scott Tomlin

Senators Absent:

Matt Frasier
Shelly Hall
Cody Neal

Cesiley Rideau
Mackenzie Taylor

Visitor(s):

Alexis Scrimshire
Amanda Gardner
Amber Meeks
Blandy Reyes
Eric Rector
Eric Walker
Erin Conrad
Jennifer Fleming
Jennifer Taylor
Julia Pope
Justin Keller

Kimberly Turner
Marcia Brown
Marika Lederman
Maranda Marin
Nichole Edwards
Shanteal Scott
Slade Dupuy
Susan Johnson
Tammy Weaver
Victoria Tomlin

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the August 7, 2025 meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Vice President Hilliard filed a motion to accept the minutes. Senator Darr seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by Senate vote.

Special Guest

Health and Wellness Center Director, Hunter Bramlitt

Special Report

Hunter moved into his role during this summer and has hit the ground running. He wanted to share a few aspects of the Health and Wellness Center that we might not know about. The HWC has started being available to employees, within the last few years, for \$25 a visit. You can think of them as an urgent care: think Strep and Covid tests, ear infections, UTI, and minor injuries. To get an appointment, just call down to the office and get on the books. During the school year, the schedule can get congested as their primary focus is the students. Additionally, Hunter pointed out that one of the HWC nurse practitioners specializes in Women's Health.

Students, of course, are offered all of the above as well as, counseling services. These are available to every Tech student. If there is a student that might need some help but doesn't know where to get started with counseling, there are walk in hours every day at 2:30pm that they can come and get evaluated for further recommendation. Another great feature that Hunter wanted to showcase was their Snacks and Stories program. This occurs every Monday and Wednesday at 3pm. They realized that students were coming to Tech but having a hard time connecting with others or struggling socially. So with this program, they get to come in, have a snack, then complete some activities, meet new people, and work on social skills. At their meeting before ours, they had 30 students come and participate!

Senate Discussion

Committee Updates:

- Campus Space & Utilization
 - No update
- Emergency Management & Safety
 - No update
- International Travel Advisory Council
 - Possibly going to France, maybe the Galapagos Islands
 - Still early but trying to get a plan narrowed down
- Technology Prioritization
 - No update
- Insurance, Benefits, & Wellness
 - No update
- Presidential Communication
 - 5th day numbers show us up 2% on enrollment
 - Busy summer for OIS and FAMA
- Budget Advisory

- No update
- University Council
 - No update
- Staff Senate Fundraising
 - Newest proof should be delivered to Megan's office today
 - This will need reviewed and approved
 - We decided we'd love to be able to sell the books at Homecoming
- Faculty/Staff Senate Waiver
 - Committee is close to bringing a proposal to Staff Senate. Once Staff Senate agrees on a proposal it will go to Dr. Jones.
 - In short, the main changes would be a revision to the class hour limitation, removing the financial penalty, and creating a standing committee to hear "one offs" in the policy.

Concerns & Questions brought to Staff Senate

We received a lot of concerns regarding flex work and parking. I will not quote them all below but will address each subject.

Can employees purchase an additional hang tag for additional vehicles so they don't have to worry about switching their tag to the other car?	Unfortunately, no. Red hang tags are a hot commodity. The worry is that people will purchase an additional tag and then sell or rent them.
Can we prorate parking tags? They way new hires aren't having to buy their tag for full price in April just to turn around and buy it again in August.	No, hang tags are used for many different reasons but one of them is a revenue generator. This would cause the revenue to go down for this and cause Public Safety to potentially have to raise the price again. Also, students and employees would intentionally wait longer to buy their tag until it was cheaper. That again affects the revenue stream and causes those individuals to be susceptible to parking tickets.
There appears to be an employee reserved parking spot on the north side of Brown as well as in the Tucker parking lot. Where are these coming from?	The division of Student Affairs is offering their employees those spots for employee of the month. This initiative started with the previous VP who would pass around a pink sparkle chair to the winners. Amy Pennington shifted the prize to a preferred parking spot.
We had lots of questions regarding remote work and a specific example about UCA's remote policy stating any day(s) that students are not on campus (think fall break, spring break, etc.) the employees are allowed to shift to remote work.	It seems as though employees aren't familiar with our Flexible Work Arrangement policy. Employees are allowed to have work from home days. One would just need to submit a request via the FWA. The request is subject to approval or denial by their supervisor and VP. Some roles here at Tech are able to work remote a lot easier than others. It will just depend on departmental needs.

	As far as the UCA model, it was given to Kathleen Martin (Director of HR) who found the model interesting. However, recently Governor Hukobee Sanders announce new regulations for state government employees. All state meetings will be held in person rather than virtual, she is extending government office hours to 8am-5pm, and announced a standardized flexible and alternative work policy. Kathleen is visiting with Eric Walker about how that announcement will affect our university. Depending on how it comes down, this could affect any requests that are already submitted and/or accepted and could render the UCA model as redundant.
Can there be a FAMA staff parking spot in front or close by the dorms so that staff can access it better for cleaning and transporting cleaning supplies?	President Tomlin brought this to Drew Dickey and he said he'd never thought of that before but thought it was a great idea. He is going to investigate the possibility and get back to us.

Meeting Adjourned

At 9:30 am Vice President Hilliard made a motion to adjourn, and Senator Herring seconded. President Tomlin concluded the September 4, 2025 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Whitney Moore, Secretary