



UNIVERSITY OF  
**CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS™**

STAFF  
SENATE

## **Regular Meeting Agenda**

**January 11, 2023**

**10:00 am**

**Wingo 315**

---

### **Senators Absent:**

Courtney Bryant, Jennifer Day, Jennifer Olson, Julia Robison, Myron Kuykendall, Paige Dutton, Ricky Harris, Robby Burton, Shad Foley, Tajaro Hudson

### **Senators Present:**

Audreka Peten, Danielle Kraus, Eric Fulton, Robyn Smith, Veneta Fricks, Carlos Herrera, Jessica Taylor, J.W. Calvery, Christy Dade, Elizabeth Gayfield, Alison Taylor, Angela Jackson, Sherita Kern, Whit Ables, Jennifer Ruud, Melanie Watson, Travis Johnson, Tina Wells, Nadia Eslinger, Nicole Sumner, Lynetta Morris, Richard Hammond, Natalie Shock

### **I. Call to Order**

A. President Herrera called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

### **II. Approval of the Minutes from previous meeting**

A. 12/14/22 Minutes approved via email.

### **III. Guest Speakers**

A. None.

### **IV. Officer Reports**

A. President, Carlos Herrera

1. COVID resource group met; with the COVID numbers down, it has been decided that the group will only meet as needed going forward. The [covid19@uca.edu](mailto:covid19@uca.edu) email is still being actively monitored. PPE and vaccines are still available.

2. Amy Whitehead - During the last freezing weather event, water pipes burst in several buildings around campus. Several physical plant staff members had to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas. We are looking at ways we might be able to acknowledge and compensate those staff that went above and beyond during the break.

3. Ex-Gov. Hutchinson has put a bill into place banning the Tiktok application from being on any State owned devices. The President's Office is looking into how that will affect us.

4. Volunteer hours for fall have been submitted to Human Resources.

B. Vice President, Jennifer Ruud

1. Staff senate election process for next year will begin in February.

C. Treasurer, Angela Jackson

1. Treasurer's report [attached](#)

D. Secretary, Christy Dade

1. No report

E. Parliamentarian/Historian, Melanie Watson

1. No report

F. Ex Officio, Nadia Eslinger

1. No report

**V. Senate Committee Reports**

A. Courtesy

1. Three requests to be sent.

B. Emergency Fund

1. Received two applications to be reviewed.

C. Employee Recognition

1. Email to go out requesting nominations. Committee to meet next week.

D. Scholarship

1. [January 23, 2023 deadline to apply.](#)

## **VI. University Committee Reports**

A. None

## **VII. Campus Q & A**

A. Does the [state government hiring](#) freeze apply to UCA?

- No. According to the order (see bullet point 9) this freeze does not pertain to “*officers, employees, and academic personnel of State institutions of higher education*”

B. Results from the Safety Walk are still pending and should be out by February.

## **VIII. Constituent Concerns**

A. Child Education Leave: Concern about whether this was a discriminatory due to the wording of the policy. Can anyone use this with their kids (non-biological or other)?

- Since this is a state policy, there is not much that we can change. However, talk with your supervisor if you have questions about this policy. Please be aware that you are only allowed 8 hours a year, regardless of how many kids you have. [Click here for FAQ.](#)

B. Questions about certain student fees when a staff member is taking classes. Will speak with the President’s Office about possible changes. Any change requests will need to be brought to the Board of Trustees.

- As staff members, we pay for parking permits and have access to the HPER center for free. When you register for classes, the system codes you as a student first and foremost. Once you have completed the proper paperwork with HR for tuition remission, HR sends your information to the appropriate offices across campus. They have codes in place for discounts and such; however, it’s not always easy to pick out if a student is also a staff member to take fees off.
- Passed this information on to the President’s Office and they are looking into this for us.

## **IX. Old Business**

A. None

## **X. New Business**

A. None

## **XI. Good and Welfare**

A. Reminder about “Focus Fridays”; it is the first Friday of every month. It is a day that staff are encouraged to not schedule any meetings and to just focus on catching up or planning for the week ahead.

B. Basketball needs volunteers, they have been very short-handed at the last few games. Please consider signing up to help usher and take tickets. [Click here for the signup form.](#)

C. To volunteer to help out with ushering at the remaining performances at Reynolds, [please click here for signups.](#)

D. Senator Jenny Ruud says “Happy New Year to everyone, welcome back!”

E. MLK Silent March, Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 1:30. Will march from Crafton Alumni Pavilion and ending at Old Main steps. [For more information, click here.](#)

F. Effective February 1, 2023, Veneta Fricks will be the new Associate Dean of Students.

G. Whit Ables is in a new position in the Registrar's Office replacing Jarrett Perry as Project Coordinator for Degree Works.

H. Softball games will start requiring tickets for some events this spring and next year they will be required at all games.

I. Athletes will be participating in a pancake fundraiser at Stoby’s on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Funds will be donated to the [Samaritan’s Feet](#) program.

J. [Torreyson library](#) is back to regular business hours.

K. Senator Audreka Peten’s daughter Kaidyn Beckwith is on Conway High School girls basketball team (ranked #1) and they are going to the tournament game in Washington, DC next week and will be televised on ESPN.

L. Susan Burks will be retiring from the library and Zane Ratcliffe is leaving as well.

M. UCA IT Networking will be working with the President's Office to research how the state Tiktok ban will affect UCA.

N. UCA Amphitheater, Saturday, March 4, 2023 “Out of the Darkness Walk” for suicide awareness, 9 - 11 am. [For more information, click here.](#)

O. Kiwanis of Conway is holding a scholarship cornhole tournament at St. Joseph gym on March 4, 2023. Contact Senator Richard Hammond for more information.

P. The UCA Police Department will hold active shooter training in Wingo Hall soon.

Q. Senator Robyn Smith is expecting her first grandson in February. Will need a sub to take care of the Courtesy committee while she is out of town.

R. [MLK Jr Prayer Breakfast](#) will be on Friday, January 13, 2023. Will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the UCA food pantry.

S. Reminder that UCA campus will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of MLK Jr day.

T. Senator Nadia Eslinger's son Aidan will be doing a live taping of his production "In Love With Another Man" on February 18, 2023 at 5 pm at Conway High School. For more information, visit <https://aidaneslinger.com/home>.

## **XII. Adjournment**

A. Motion to adjourn at 10:40 am by Senator Gayfield, seconded by Senator Ables.