



Regular Meeting Agenda
September 13, 2023
10:00am
Wingo 315

Senators Absent: Angela Jackson, Melanie Watson, Ricky Harris

Senators Present: Alison Taylor, Audreka Peten, Bryttani Bartlett, Carlos Herrera, Christy Dade, Dylan Richardson, Eric Fulton, Emily Hall, J.W. Calvery, Jasmine Driver, Jennifer Day, Jennifer Olson, Jennifer Ruud, Jessica Taylor, Joe Hooker, LeSha Smith, Millie Goins, Nadia Eslinger, Natalie Shock, Richard Hammond, Robby Burton, Robyn Smith, Shelley Vangsnæs, Sherita Kern, Tina Wells, Travis Johnson, Trisha Clark, Veneta Fricks, Whit Ables

I. Call to Order

A. President Ruud called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

II. Approval of the Minutes of previous meeting

A. 8/30/23 minutes approved via email and are posted to the Staff Senate website.

III. Guest Speakers

A. President Davis

1. UCA Commitment

- a) There are several working groups who've been involved in the strategic implementation of UCA Commitment, and the conversations are continuing. As more of the intimate details are ironed out, more people will be added to the conversation.
- b) Current UCA students aren't losing anything with the launch of UCA Commitment. Current students still benefit from the 818 student work study positions and the 29 million dollars of public and private scholarships. UCA Commitment will be more strategic about funneling those dollars to address the unmet needs for students.
- c) Admissions standards will stay the same.
- d) To opt in to the UCA Commitment students must (1) apply to UCA, (2) apply for the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship, and (3) complete the FAFSA.
- e) Students must be first time freshmen with 0 collegiate hours, not including AP or concurrent courses. This will be open to students who graduated high school within the past 3 years.
- f) For more information about UCA Commitment, click [here](#).

2. Campus Talk

- a) The first campus talk for this year will be on Tuesday, September 19th



IV. Officer Reports

- A. President, Jennifer Ruud
 - 1. Campus Talk is happening 9/19/23 during X-period. Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and SGA presidents will be providing updates.
 - 2. There will be an eclipse information session on 9/21/23 during X-period to discuss the eclipse event happening on 4/8/24. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link to the info session.
 - 3. The new HR Director Bridget Fortenberry will begin on Monday, September 18th.
- B. Vice President, Whit Ables
 - 1. No report.
- C. Treasurer, Angela Jackson
 - 1. Absent, No report.
- D. Secretary, Veneta Fricks
 - 1. No report.
- E. Parliamentarian/Historian, Melanie Watson
 - 1. Absent, No report.
- F. Ex Officio, Carlos Herrera
 - 1. No report.

V. Senate Committee Reports

- A. Courtesy Committee
 - 1. 4 cards requested.
- B. Professional Development Committee
 - 1. Met for Quarter 2 applications and awarded \$8,935 of the \$9,000 available. Only 1 person was denied because the majority of the funding was used, and they got funding in a recent quarter.
 - 2. Quarter 3 applications open on 10/30/23 and close on 11/10/23.
- C. By-Laws Committee
 - 1. Met with the Staff Senate President and Vice President to gain direction on the charge to propose amendments to the by-laws, constitution, operations manual and other core Staff Senate documents that needed to change.
 - 2. The committee was asked to look over the by-laws and operations manual. The committee decided that Article III, Section II would be the focus as it focuses on the senate body. These changes regard the personnel changes from classified to non-classified and senate representation
 - a) Two proposals for the senate representation include (1) update senator list by classification to institutional senators categorized by functional areas and (2) update senator list by university division with senator amount based on number of employees in division at at-large positions for unfilled senate seats. Other proposals may be forthcoming after the committee meeting on 9/15/23.
 - b) All changes will be presented to Staff Senate and voted on and then sent to all staff to approve. The goal is to have all changes



approved by January ahead of Staff Senate elections in the spring semester.

D. Basketball Committee

1. Basketball committee is meeting at the conclusion of the Staff Senate meeting.

VI. University Committee Reports

A. Employee Benefits Committee

1. Will meet next week to discuss insurance premiums.

B. Food Truck Fest

1. The food truck fest will be Friday, October 27th. Aramark created a form for food vendors to sign up. There are currently 8 food trucks signed up and counting. The goal is to have more trucks to shorten wait times.

VII. Constituent Concerns/Communication

A. Update on Physical Plant Custodial Concern

1. Senator Ruud received information from AVP for Facilities Kevin Carter and President Davis. Kevin Carter confirmed the Physical Plant is outsourcing custodial services, but that is only because they are short staffed. President Davis and Keven Carter reassured that employees' jobs are safe. Employee schedules and assignments may change due to staff absences, building needs, university events, and contractors.

B. Update on Gas Prices Concern

1. Constituent Example - Employee lives 60 miles away, making the daily commute 120 miles per day and results in an average monthly gas bill of \$240. The employee's suggestions follow: to mitigate gas costs for UCA employees who live more than 40 miles away (1) give a gas stipend or (2) allow employees 2 remote days per week.

VIII. Old Business

- A. None

IX. New Business

A. Vote on Staff Senate FY24 Budget

1. Motion to vote on the Staff Senate FY24 budget by Senator Christy Dade, seconded by Senator Whit Ables.
2. Staff Senate FY24 budget was unanimously approved.



X. Good and Welfare

- A. Senator Jenny Ruud
 - 1. Congrats to Senator Nadia Eslinger who was the Faculty Member of the 1st football home game.
- B. Senator Natalie Shock
 - 1. For information about UCA Athletic games click here:
<https://ucasports.com/>.
- C. Senator Richard Hammond
 - 1. Water aerobics has started again on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00pm-5:45pm. This is a highly requested class from faculty and staff. However, attendance falls after the first few weeks, resulting in the class being canceled. If you want to see water aerobics continue, please spread the word and show up.
- D. Senator Eric Fulton
 - 1. Lexi Shaw is leaving the Library staff on 9/15/23 so the library will be looking for a new administrative assistant.
- E. Senator Bryttani Bartlett
 - 1. Enrollment management will be hosting sessions to keep the campus community informed on what they do and systems they use. These sessions will be in the Donaghey Hall Welcome Center. Look out for more information.
 - 2. Admissions hired a new recruiter, Trey White. We are excited to have him on our team.
- F. Senator Dylan Richardson
 - 1. Admissions is hosting its first Spanish speaking tour of this semester on Friday, September 15th at noon beginning at Harrin Hall.
- G. Senator Robyn Smith
 - 1. Jeanna Atkinson's (OARS) last day is 9/13/23.
- H. Senator Alison Taylor
 - 1. There is a position open for the Assistant Director for Advancement Services if you know someone who really likes data.

XI. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn at 11:00am by Senator Carlos Herrera, seconded by Senator Eric Fulton.

Important Dates:

September 19th – Campus Talk

September 21st – Wingate Ribbon Cutting – 4:00pm

December 5th – Faculty/Staff Senate Holiday Reception 5pm–6:30pm (at the President's house)

Upcoming Guests

September 27th – Guest Kevin Carter

October 11th – Guest Human Resources