



## Regular Meeting Agenda

March 27, 2024

10:00am

Wingo 315

---

**Senators Absent:** Alison Taylor, Bryttani Bartlett, Christy Dade, Dylan Richardson, Emily Hall, Jennifer Jones, LeSha Smith, Millie Goins, Nadia Eslinger, Ricky Harris, Tina Wells

**Senators Present:** Audreka Peten, Angela Jackson, Carlos Herrera, Eric Fulton, J.W. Calvery, Jasmine Driver, Jennifer Day, Jennifer Olson, Jennifer Ruud, Jessica Taylor, Melanie Watson, Natalie Shock, Richard Hammond, Robby Burton, Robyn Smith, Shelley Vangsnes, Sherita Kern, Tiffany Turner, Travis Johnson, Trisha Clark, Veneta Fricks, Whit Ables

### I. Call to Order

A. President Ruud called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

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

A. 3/13/24 will be approved and posted on the Staff Senate website.

### III. Guest: Colby Wilson, SGA President

A. SGA is looking for 2 advisors to complete the pool of 5 SGA advisors. The areas of focus for the advisors will be student affairs and faculty. SGA is very active and is known as one of the best in the nation due to the student officer benefits, conference attendance, and ability to network with faculty and staff. At least 1 advisor must be present for SGA Monday meetings, exec meetings, and cabinet meetings. The advisors must also be present at the summer retreat. Advisor terms are 2 years. After the 2 years you may be asked to come back or the advisor term will end as scheduled.

B. SGA advisors receive a semesterly stipend of \$500.00 that goes to the advisor's department for travel.

C. If you want to learn more about the SGA advisor position, you can reach out to the current advisors Adam Rose ([arose@uca.edu](mailto:arose@uca.edu)), Taine Duncan ([tduncan@uca.edu](mailto:tduncan@uca.edu)), and Tiffany Turner ([tturner10@uca.edu](mailto:tturner10@uca.edu)).

D. If you are interested in advising SGA you can reach out to SGA President Colby Wilson ([cwilson38@cub.uca.edu](mailto:cwilson38@cub.uca.edu) / [uca.sgapresident@gmail.com](mailto:uca.sgapresident@gmail.com)).

### IV. Officer Reports

A. President, Jennifer Ruud

1. The 71st service awards will be Tuesday, April 2nd in Ronnie Williams Student Center Ballroom at 1:40pm.
2. The eclipse kickoff will be on the stripes on Thursday, April 4th during x-period. Senators please wear senate polos if you are able to attend. We will learn the "Kick Rocks" line dance with Zydeco artist Sean Ardoin.

President Davis, Staff Senate President Ruud, Faculty Senate President Vaughn Scribner and SGA President Wilson will have remarks.

- B. Vice President, Whit Ables
  - 1. Elections are open. Please encourage people to accept or decline nominations and submit bios by Friday, March 29th. An email to campus will go out with candidate bios on Monday, April 1st.
- C. Treasure, Angela Jackson
  - 1. No report.
- D. Secretary, Veneta Fricks
  - 1. No report.
- E. Parliamentarian/Historian, Melanie Watson
  - 1. No report.
- F. Ex Officio, Carlos Herrera
  - 1. No report.

## **V. Senate Committee Reports**

- A. Spring Social Committee
  - 1. The spring social will be April 26th on the McAlister Lawn.
  - 2. The committee is taking a maximum of 10 participants to participate in the Hot Ones Challenge. Nominations for participants will close on Monday, April 1st. Participants must eat a bite from 10 wings. Participants will need to select a foundation to receive donations. Current competitors include President Davis, Staff Senate President Jenny Ruud, and Faculty Senate President Scribner.
  - 3. There will also be lawn games, prizes, and Adams Catfish.
- B. Outreach & Communications
  - 1. Staff Senate will host another Whine & Cheese event on March 28th from 4:30pm-6:00pm in Skyboxes overlooking Estes Stadium.
  - 2. There are 3 remaining sessions for line dance classes. Classes are open to staff and faculty. There have also been requests to continue this initiative in the future.
- C. Basketball
  - 1. Thank you to all senators and staff who volunteered for the tournament games!

## **VI. University Committee Reports**

- A. Committees on Committees
  - 1. The committee met to approve changes to the composition of the Veterans Committee. The SGA representative on the committee will be replaced by a representative from the Student Veterans of America RSO.
- B. Veterans Committee
  - 1. The committee met to discuss the veterans dinner to be hosted on April 18th at the RWSC Ballroom. The buffet will open at 6:00pm, and the program will begin at 6:30pm. The event is free to veteran students and a plus one.

## VII. Constituent Concerns/Communication

A. **Constituent Concern:** “Has the idea of a daycare program (outside of the student study center) for faculty, staff, and students kids ever been considered? It seems like it would be such an amazing resource for so many people on campus. Especially if it was made affordable, I think it would help retain employees.”

1. **Response from Staff Senate President Jenny Ruud:** “As I suspected this idea has been heavily researched in previous years. Due to many issues (liability issues, state licensure requirements, cost to the university daily operation etc. and many other issues) it has not been considered to proceed. We do operate the UCA Child Study Center, but part of that function is to provide training for our students obtaining education degrees. Hope this helps!”

B. **Constituent Concern:** A constituent mentioned the UCA Athletes Diversity Statement being stated or posted during a game they attended and they found that encouraging. They wondered if a similar statement or communication could come out from other departments, particularly Campus Recreation intramurals due to their awareness of racial tensions or language considered slurs during those sports brought to their attention. This is the statement I located that is what they were referencing: UCA Athletics Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity Statement *At the University of Central Arkansas, the athletics mission is to support all of our student-athletes, coaches and supporters to garner their best experience possible. This begins with our commitment to diversity, belonging, inclusion, and equity within our department, on campus and the community we serve. We recognize that these principles are essential not only for social responsibility but also to maintain our competitive advantage. We respect the diversity of thought and cherish those perspectives. We will attract and hire a diverse group of talented people to help us achieve our vision. We will embrace the similarities and differences in everyone fostering a culture of inclusive excellence by cultivating an environment where everyone is valued, respected, and heard. Our goal is to foster an environment of diverse thoughts and ideas where everyone feels included, respected, and appreciated.*

1. **Response from Senator Richard Hammond, Director of Campus Recreation & Wellness:** Campus Recreation and Wellness has a sportsmanship statement for intramurals that is distributed to the captains of the team. It is the expectation that team captains review the sportsmanship statements with their teams. Richard Hammond will look into the statement to review the language present. Due to multiple intramural games being played during the same time with teams constantly coming in and out, there would be a need for an intercom system on the intramural grounds to make the announcements at the start of each game. Teams also receive sportsmanship points. Inappropriate behavior could result in teams losing points and/or individuals being ejected. There are measures in place to handle inappropriate behavior. If someone does experience racial tensions, slurs, or inappropriate behavior, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students office. Incidents are reported as individual, Greek, and other registered student organization code of

conduct violations. Based on the severity, individuals and groups who participate in inappropriate behavior are subject to suspension from intramural events and sanctions determined by the Dean of Students office if found responsible.

2. **Response from Senators Jessica Taylor & Natalie Shock:** The statement the constituent referred to was posted/read during the diversity and inclusion night. This was a special occurrence. The statement is on the athletics website, but it is not read at every game. The diversity statement is specific to athletes and may not necessarily fit the needs of the intramural games. Athletics typically has a sportsmanship statement for every game. The sportsmanship statement actually is one from the ASUN conference that is announced at every conference game as a conference requirement. Athletics chooses to announce the statement at all games.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

- A. None

#### **IX. New Business**

- A. None

#### **X. Good and Welfare**

- A. Senator Jennifer Ruud - Registration opens today. Please encourage students to visit with their advisors. How to videos are on the [Registrar](#) and [Academic Advising](#) websites. The Staff Senate retreat will be on June 12th at the Village Den storm shelter.
- B. Senator Melanie Watson - Carlos Herrera is transitioning from Outreach & Community Engagement to the Gear Up office.
- C. Senator Carlos Herrera - Carlos Herrera is transitioning from Outreach & Community Engagement to the GEAR UP office as of April 1st. His new office will be located in the basement of Old Main.
  1. There is still a need for [eclipse volunteers](#).
  2. [Commencement volunteers](#) are needed for the 5 ceremonies.
- D. Senator Jessica Taylor - UCA athletes participated in the Samaritan's Feet event at Marguerite-Vann during parent-teacher conferences. There will be a blood drive (swab only) for blood cancer in the Ronnie Williams Student Center on April 17th and April 18th. There is a shortage of African American donors. Athletics is working with Dr. Webster to get a more diverse pool of donors.
- E. Senator Natalie Shock - See information about UCA athletics [here](#). Tonight's reception for the new head men's basketball coach John Shulman will be held in the UCA Sports Hall of Fame room in Estes Stadium beginning at 5:30pm.
- F. Senator Eric Fulton - Madeline Kimbrell ([mkimbrell@uca.edu](mailto:mkimbrell@uca.edu)) is the new BeWell Coordinator.
- G. Senator Richard Hammon - The annual UCA faculty/staff golf tournament will be held on May 6th at Nutters Chapel. Please contact Richard Hammond ([rhammond@uca.edu](mailto:rhammond@uca.edu)) for more information.

- H. Senator Audreka Peten - Schichtl parking lot has been repainted for faculty and staff. The lot is no longer metered.
- I. Senator Angela Jackson - The Lavender Graduation will be held on April 10th at 5pm in Ronnie Williams Student Center Ballroom. Please encourage students to check their emails or reach out to Angela Jackson ([angelaj@uca.edu](mailto:angelaj@uca.edu)) to RSVP. April 20th at 11am will be the Women's Tea. The event is free, and women are welcome to bring their young ladies and other women with them. RSVP with Angela Jackson ([angelaj@uca.edu](mailto:angelaj@uca.edu)).
- J. Senator Tiffany Turner - Food for fines through SGA is happening this week. SGA will also be tabling and doing care cards for survivors of sexual assault.

**XI. Adjournment**

- A. Motion to adjourn at 10:36am by Senator Melanie Watson seconded by Senator Richard Hammond.

**Important Dates:**

March 28th - W(h)ine & Cheese Event (4:30pm-6:00pm)

April 1st - Employee Paid Line Dance Class

April 4th - Eclipse Kickoff with Zydeco Kick Rocks Line Dance

April 5th - Focused Friday

April 8th – Total Solar Eclipse Events

April 15th - Staff Senate Paid Line Dance Class

April 22nd - Employee Paid Line Dance Class

April 26th - Spring Social

May 3rd - Focused Friday

May 3rd - May 4th - Spring Commencement

**Upcoming Guests**

May 29th - President Houston Davis