



Regular Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2025

10:00 am

Wingo 315

Senators Present: 23

Senators Absent: 6

Ex-Officio: Present

I. Call to Order

- A. Meeting called to order by President Fricks at 10:00am.

II. Approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting

- A. Minutes from the previous meeting have been approved and are on the website.

III. Guest Speakers

- A. None

IV. Officer Reports

- A. President, Dr. Veneta Fricks
 - 1. Happy Homecoming Week! Please get involved with the various homecoming events as you are able. See a full list of events [here](#).
 - 2. Staff Senate Foundation Scholarship Applications Available until January 26, 2026. [Click here](#) for scholarship guidelines. [Apply here](#).
 - 3. Presidential Initiatives
 - a) Thankful Thursday with Staff Senate - 11/20/25
 - (1) Location and Time - TBA
 - 4. SPARK! Reminder
- B. Vice President, Sherita Kern
 - 1. Volunteer Hours Update
 - a) September hours have been posted. October hours will be submitted to HR for processing on Monday, November 4th.
- C. Treasurer, Shalia Delph
 - 1. Treasurer Report
- D. Secretary, Teresa Burton
 - 1. Please review minutes and respond in a timely manner so I can get them sent out and on the website.
- E. Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer, Dylan Richardson
 - 1. No report (Absent)
- F. Ex Officio, Carlos Herrera
 - 1. No report

V. Senate Committee Reports

- A. Angel Bear Committee
 - 1. The Angel Bear class for 2025 has significantly increased, so we've adjusted the timeline to accommodate for the influx of applications.
 - 2. Angels will be available for adoption beginning November 5th. Tree locations include Ronnie Williams Student Center, Torreyson Library, Thomas C. Courtway Recreation Center, and Wingo Hall.
 - 3. In 2024 we served 40 UCA families totaling 83 angels. This year we will serve 62 UCA families totaling 135 angels, an increase of almost 63%.

4. More angels, means more ways to help our community. Please consider adopting angels as an individual or group, volunteering to shop for unadopted angels, donating to Angel Bear through the UCA Foundation, and distributing gifts. Winterfeast ticket sale profits also assist with the needs for Angel Bear.
- B. Basketball Committee
 1. Games are on GivePulse and sent out to get volunteers.
- C. Courtesy Committee- No cards
- D. Football Committee
 1. Need volunteers for Nov 22nd game.
- E. Staff Grants
 1. Applications closed on October 20th, and the committee met to approve one applicant and denied two others.
- F. UCA Public Appearances Committee
 1. Need volunteers for performances in Nov and December.
- G. Winterfeast Committee
 1. Tickets go on sale Nov 5th. Please encourage coworkers to attend.
- H. Emergency Fund Committee
 1. 1 request approved
- I. Professional Development Committee
 1. Applications Open on Oct 27th for Quarter III for Professional Development funds.

VI. University Committee Reports

- A. Homecoming Committee
 1. Food Truck Fest/Department Tailgating Competition on Friday.
- B. Veterans Day Committee
 1. Thursday Nov 6th in McCastlain Ballroom X Period
- C. Traffic and Parking Committee
 1. Please park in the correct parking spaces. Visitors pass needs to be obtained from UCA PD if you do not have your parking pass with you or if you are driving another vehicle.

VII. Constituent Concerns/Communication

- A. Constituent Concern: "I am writing to respectfully request that the Staff Senate consider advocating for priority registration for UCA staff who are enrolled in courses under the university's tuition remission program. Providing staff with the opportunity to register early would not only enhance the value of the tuition remission benefit, but also offer meaningful support to departments across campus. With early access to course registration, staff members would be better able to select classes that align with both their educational goals and their work responsibilities. This balance is essential in ensuring continued productivity within departments while also promoting the professional development of employees. By allowing staff to plan their class schedules around departmental needs, we can minimize disruptions and better maintain operational efficiency. Furthermore, this adjustment would reflect UCA's continued commitment to fostering a culture of learning and development among its employees. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to discuss this request further or provide any additional information that may be helpful."
 1. Outreach from President Fricks: "Thank you for reaching out and for thoughtfully sharing your perspective on staff priority registration. The Staff Senate truly values ideas that promote professional development and strengthen the experience of UCA employees who are also pursuing their educational goals. After reviewing your request, we confirmed that registration access for all students —

including staff enrolled through the tuition remission program — follows the university's established registration schedule. Registration windows are assigned based on a variety of factors such as student classification, special programs, and other designated groups. These timeframes are designed to ensure an equitable and consistent process for all members of the campus community. While staff are not eligible for early or priority registration, we understand the uniqueness of balancing coursework and departmental responsibilities. We encourage staff to plan accordingly using the published registration timeline, available here: [Spring 2026 Registration Schedule](#). Please know that the Staff Senate appreciates your advocacy and commitment to continued learning. We remain dedicated to elevating staff voices and exploring opportunities that enhance professional development and work-life balance. Thank you again for engaging with us in this important conversation."

- B. Constituent Concern: "I have had a constituent express concern over rumors that UCA is no longer recycling items placed in green bags, and that they have not seen green recycling bags in dedicated recycling receptacles. They didn't give a specific example, but were concerned that there was no longer a reliable way to recycle on campus. Would it be possible to reach out to physical plant for a response?"
 - 1. Outreach from President Fricks: "Thank you for sharing this constituent concern. I've reached out to Kevin Carter, Associate Vice President for Facilities to get some insight on this concern. I will update you with a response."
 - 2. Response from Kevin Carter "Thanks for reaching out! For recycling, everything in the recycling bins is still going to the recycling center. We have a large open-top dumpster next to the trash compactor, and our staff sorts it when they get it to the back of the Physical Plant. Let me know if you have any other questions!"
 - 3. Senator Turner- There is a Sustainability Committee through Student Government. As they look into the recycling efforts on campus, I will share any information they have with Staff Senate.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Camera Purchase for Staff Senate
- B. Staff Senate Fund Requests
 - 1. Office of Student Advocacy and Community - Ice Cream Social Promotional Items
 - a) OSAC expressed gratitude for the Staff Senate funding for their April Ice Cream Social event.
 - 2. Employee Enrichment and Engagement - New Employee T-Shirts
 - a) EEE agreed to allow Staff Senate the opportunity to present and share resources at the New Staff Orientations scheduled for December 3rd, March 11th, and July 22nd from 9:50-10am. A member from the Outreach & Communications Committee will present at the various sessions. The design of handouts, presentations, and designation of Staff Senate representation has been passed along to the OCC team.

IX. New Business

- A. None

X. Good and Welfare

- A. President Fricks- Homecoming events- Please attend.
- B. VP Kern- All Majors Career Fair November 5. 9-12 in the RWSC Ballroom. Open to students, faculty, staff and community.
- C. Senator Watson- Shout out to the Community Care Clinic. It was a very positive experience.
- D. Senator Todd- BINGLOW tomorrow night from 6-11pm. We need volunteers to help with the event.

- E. Senator Erickson- Registration for Freshmen on Nov 7 and 11th. Housing Peer coaches and community mentors available to help students register for classes. Dec 3rd - Late Night Breakfast and Exam Jam.
- F. Senator Palmer- Art Students Senior Exhibitions-Baum Gallery tomorrow
- G. Senator Dickson- Basketball games starting November 7.
- H. Senator Turner- Trunk or Treat@ President's House Friday night
- I. Senator Calvary- Library has extended hours during finals week. Closed for professional development on the afternoon of Dec 15. The library is open to the community and ALL faculty and staff.

XI. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn at 10:39am by Senator Watson.
- B. Second by Senator Todd.

Important Dates:

- November 20th - Thankful Thursday with Senate
- December 2nd - Faculty Senate & Staff Senate Reception (5:00pm-6:30pm at the President's House)
- December 3rd - Winterfeast at the Student Recreation Center
- December 6th - Cookies with Santa (at the President's House)
- December 10th - Holiday Breakfast
- December 11th & 12th - Commencement