



Regular Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026
10:00 am
Wingo 315

Senators Present: 21

Senators Absent: 6

Ex-Officio: Present

I. Call to Order

- A. Meeting called to order by Pres Kern 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- Suggestions for the semester

1. Charlotte Strickland
2. Aramark (Josh)- New Salad bar in the cafeteria- Go and check it out!
3. CERT Team
4. Physical Plant (Kevin Carter)

IV. Officer Reports

A. President, Sherita Kern

1. Fall 2025 Wins- Angel Bear- supported 134 Angels, Emergency Fund was able to support several families, Winter Feast was a huge success, Volunteering went well for the Fall.
2. Fiscal Responsibility- Please make sure you are considering requests that come before the Senate. Some pots of money do not replenish, so we need to be responsible for where our funds are going, so that we will be able to support initiatives that we feel strongly about supporting in the future.
3. Back to School Drive- There is a need for providing school supplies for some families. Exec is flushing out the details of this and will be looking to combine with other Community partners to fill this need. An Ad-Hoc committee will be formed for those interested in helping.
4. Annual Evals- HR has started the Evals for the year. The merit scale has been brought back to the end of the Eval.
5. Salary Study- As of Jan 1, 2026 They are continuing to get employees up to Benchmark levels. This is a process and they are working to continue evaluating those that have changed positions or didn't have a benchmark

B. Vice President, Dylan Richardson

1. Committee meetings reminder- Meet with your Committees as needed. Touch base on Committee goals as we move forward.
2. Volunteer hours reminder-All volunteer hours have been updated through December. Team leads need to be sure to sign in all volunteers at each event. Each Senator needs at least 12 hours each year.

3. Working on the legislative part of Staff Senate. Also, working on getting the Website ADA compliant.
- C. Treasurer, Shalia Delph
1. Treasurer Report- Looking good but also we need to be fiscally responsible with our funds. Reminder of how accounts are funded and renewed annually. Also, some accounts are not renewed. Certain accounts can only be used to fund certain things. Volunteer hours provide funds to help replenish some accounts.
- D. Secretary, Teresa Burton -No report
 E. Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer, Melanie Straw-Watson- No report
 F. Ex Officio, Carlos Herrera -No report

V. Senate Committee Reports

- A. Basketball Committee- All games are listed in GivePulse. Please sign up to volunteer.
- B. Courtesy Committee- 1 card
- C. UCA Public Appearances Committee- Windgate Show this Sunday, January 18, Ambrosia. All Spring Shows are on GivePulse. Please sign up to volunteer.
- D. Professional Development Committee - Grants are being awarded. Working on setting up some clear guidelines for determining how funds are being dispersed.
- E. Outreach & Communication- Meeting is scheduled for Friday Jan 16, 2026 .

VI. University Committee Reports

- A. Parking Committee- Reviewed appeals.
- B. MLK Prayer Breakfast - Friday, Jan 16, 2026 8:15am. The program starts at 9:00am.

VII. Constituent Concerns/Communication

A. Concern regarding the safety for the pedestrians exiting the shuttle bus on the Schichtl curve. That area is typically busy with vehicles passing through and sometimes at a higher speed or the drivers are not aware of pedestrians that may be crossing.

Response- It is important to be mindful of your own safety by being aware of your surroundings and avoiding distractions while walking (i.e. phone, consumed in conversations, looking down).
 Reminder: there are crosswalks in close proximity to provide a safer option when crossing. There is also a plan to put up a sign to advise pedestrians on safety.

B. Some employees did not receive their birthday meal voucher in December.

President Kern will reach out to Josh from Aramark for a response.

VIII. Old Business -None

IX. New Business - None

X. Good and Welfare

- A. Senator Kern- Expressed appreciation for Exec Board in the transition of positions.
- B. Senator Richardson- Expressed appreciation for Staff Senate.
- C. Senator Herrera- Gear Up Arkansas will be having summer camps May 4-15 for our 8th and 9th grade scholars. In the process of planning these events. If you are interested in partnering with GearUp and/or hosting any sessions for these students please reach out to Carlos.
- D. Senator Watson- Trent Reese is having camp director training on February 5-6th. Outreach is hosting a Constituent luncheon to learn more about how Outreach can support the campus. Feb 17, 2026
- E. Senator Johnson- MLK Prayer Breakfast on Friday at 8:15.
- F. Senator Palmer- Know where your fire extinguishers are in your buildings.
- G. Senator Wolfe- Today is the last day to add/drop class for full refund to their schedule.

- H. Senator Turner- The renovations on the bathrooms on the second floor of the Student Center are scheduled to be completed this week. Windows have been replaced in the Student Center.
- I. Senator Vangsnes- Student Success coaching appointments are available to help students. Study rooms are also available to reserve if needed.
- J. Senator Mahathay- IT - Windows 10 computers will not be able to connect to the Network. Labs set up on 2nd and 3rd floor of Burdick.
- K. Senator Hammond- T REC is adding a functional fitness area to our cardio area. Future projects in the Spring to resurface the pool and redoing the court lines. There will be some closures during those projects.
- L. Senator Delph- Has moved from Admissions to the Registrars office. EMS training dates starting in February. If you are unable to attend the scheduled dates, please contact for a one-on-one training session.
- M. Senator Blew- Serves on a Civic Action Coalition. Register to vote by Feb 1, 2026 to be able to vote in elections this Spring.
- N. Senator Dickson-Basketball games on Thursday and Saturday this week. February starts softball and baseball seasons.

XI. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn at 10:44 by Senator Watson
- B. Second by Senator Hammond.

Important Dates:

- MLK Breakfast- January 16th
- January 26th - Staff Senate Foundation Scholarships Close - [Apply here.](#)
- Employee Appreciation Week- March 2nd- 6th
 - Employee Appreciation Day March 6th
- Campus Talk- March 17th
- Faculty & Staff Recognition Celebration- April 14th
- Forever a Bear Memorial- April 16th
- Spring Social- April 24th