



Regular Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2025
10:00 am
Zoom

Senators Present: 20
Senators Absent: 7
Ex-Officio: Present

I. Call to Order

A. Zoom Meeting called to order by President 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

IV. Officer Reports

A. President, Sherita Kern

1. Spring 2026 overview

2. Board update

3. Winterfeast/Angel Bear Gratitude

B. Vice President, VACANT

C. Treasurer, Shalia Delph

1. Treasurer Report

D. Secretary, Teresa Burton-No report

E. Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer, Dylan Richardson-No report

F. Ex Officio, Carlos Herrera-No report

V. Senate Committee Reports

A. Angel Bear Committee-Going well. Pick up of bags has started. The Food Pantry has donated food boxes that are amazing.

B. Basketball Committee-Games in December and early January need more volunteers.

C. Courtesy Committee- No cards

D. UCA Public Appearances Committee-Spring Shows are on GivePulse. Sign up as you are able.

E. Winterfeast Committee-Shout out to the Committee for a great event.

F. Professional Development- Meeting today to make decisions.

G. Outreach and Communications- Ricky Harris did a great job presenting at New Employee Orientation at the December meeting.

VI. University Committee Reports

A. Parking Committee - Reviewed appeals

B. MLK Prayer Breakfast- Working on flyers and invites for this event. Friday January 16, 2026.

VII. Constituent Concerns/Communication

1. Constituent Concern “ There was an incident this morning where ICE was seen on Hendrix Campus in relation to a traffic stop with the Conway Police Department. Does UCA have any documentation/plans on how we are to proceed if ICE comes to UCA?

- A. Response from Amy Whitehead, “Regarding ICE: If anyone suspects that ICE is on campus and/or finds themselves in an interaction with someone who identifies themselves as an ICE agent, they can contact UCAPD for assistance to confirm they are a federal agent. As a campus/public institution, we will comply with state and federal laws.”
2. Constituent Concern: “UCA is self funded for our health insurance. I understand that saves money for the staff. I am sure there is an insurance committee. I would like to know how they decide what is covered or what is an exemption. Bariatric surgery has never been covered. Times change and maybe this needs to be considered for our future insurance needs. It is a serious issue. If this were to be covered it might help with a decrease in other areas of care associated with obese conditions. Ex high blood pressure,early cardiovascular problems, joint and mobility issues etc. It is now required for insurance to cover bariatric coverage. The exception is self pay insurance does not have to cover it. So that is a loop hole so our insurance does not have to cover it. Even people on Medicaid can get bariatric surgery. We work and also pay for our insurance. Maybe if we had better coverage people would be inclined to pay more for our premiums. I’m certain I am not the only staff member who feels this way.”

A. Response from Amy Whitehead, “ Regarding the constituent concerns about bariatric surgery in the attached minutes- UCA is exempt from providing this Coverage because we are self-funded. However, Dr. Ed Powers is the chair of the Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (EBAC), and they are charged with reviewing our coverage and exploring options related to our health plan. This concern could potentially be reviewed by that group.

VIII. Old Business- None
IX. New Business

- A. Exec Board Elections for VP
 - 1. Motion to nominate Dylan Richardson for VP by Senator Delph
 - 2. Second by Senator Todd
 - 3. Motion to close nominations for VP by Senator Watson
 - 4. Second by Senator Blew
 - 5. Motion to accept nomination of Senator Dylan Richardson for Vacant VP position for the remainder of the 2025-2026 term by Senator Todd.
 - 6. Second by Senator Blew.
 - 7. Motion to vote over Zoom and forgo electronic vote by Senator Johnson.
 - 8. Second by Senator Turner.
 - 9. Unanimous vote for Dylan Richardson to fill VP position.

- B. Exec Board Elections for Parliamentary/Historian/Assistant Treasurer
 - 1. Motion to nominate Melanie Watson for P/H/Assistant Treasurer by Senator Hammond
 - 2. Second by Senator T. Burton.
 - 3. Motion to nominate Travis Johnson for P/H/Assistant Treasurer by Senator Palmer.
 - 4. Second by Senator Todd
 - 5. Motion to close nominations by Senator Blew.
 - 6. Second by Senator Watson.
 - 7. Senator Johnson declines nomination

8. Motion to close nominations for Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer by Senator Blew.
9. Second by Senator Watson.
10. Motion to forgo discussion and move to vote by Senator Johnson.
11. Second by Senator Smith-Todd.
12. Motion to elect Senator Melanie Watson into the role of Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer for the remainder of the 2025-2026 term by Senator Blew.
13. Second by Senator Richardson.
14. Unanimous vote for Melanie Watson to fill Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer Position.

X. Good and Welfare

- A. President Kern- Thankful for everyone, for the support and help in the transition of leadership.
- B. Senator Richardson- Thankful for support and confidence from the Senate.
- C. Senator Delph- Thankful for help and support with Angel Bear.
- D. Senator Vangsnes- Student Success is going well. Academic planners will be available the first week of classes to be picked up if needed.
- E. Senator Turner- The second floor restrooms in the Student Center are closed for renovations.
- F. Senator Calvery- Library is busy. We are hiring 5 positions currently.
- G. Senator Wolfe- Some people concerned that the advising staff and athletic advising staff need more transparency in how students are supported.
- H. Senator Mahathay- IT is in process of setting up labs next week.
- I. Senator Peden- Student Account payment plans are starting.
- J. Senator R Burton-Basketball volunteering in January.

Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn at 10:41 am by Senator Watson.
- B. Second by Senator Turner.

Important Dates:

- December 11th & 12th - Commencement
- January 26th - Staff Senate Foundation Scholarships Close - [Apply here](#).