



Regular Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026
10:00 am
Zoom

Senators Present: 22
Senators Absent: 5
Ex-Officio: Present

I. Call to Order

A. Zoom meeting called to order by President Kern at 10:00 am.

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. Charlotte Strickland- Employee Appreciation

1. Shared what was done last year to show appreciation to all staff. Are there ways that Staff Senate would like to participate in conjunction with what is already happening? March 2-6. Need to notify Charlotte by Feb 11, 2026.

IV. Officer Reports

A. President, Sherita Kern

1. Funding Reminder-Be financially responsible with requests for funds.

B. Vice President, Dylan Richardson- Absent

C. Treasurer, Shalia Delph- Absent- No changes since last meeting.

D. Secretary, Teresa Burton-Please review meeting minutes in a timely manner.

E. Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer, Melanie Straw-Watson- Reminder to be financially responsible with funds.

F. Ex Officio, Carlos Herrera- No report

V. Senate Committee Reports

A. Basketball Committee- Upcoming games we need more volunteers. As Team leads, please be aware of who is signing up. Volunteer opportunities are only for Staff members.

B. Courtesy Committee- 3 cards

C. UCA Public Appearances Committee- Can help identify if someone who signed up is actually staff. Reach out to Senator Hanshaw or Senator Erickson if unsure.

D. Professional Development Committee -Applications for next quarter opens Feb 2-23rd.

E. Outreach & Community- Dates for Spring events announced, working on gift for all staff.

VI. University Committee Reports

VII. Constituent Concerns/Communication

A. Some Employees did not receive their birthday meal voucher from Aramark in December.

Response- Names were given to Joshua at Aramark and those vouchers will be sent out to them.

VIII. Old Business- None

IX. New Business

A. Back to School Drive Ad hoc Committee

1. Senator Delph, Senator Vangnes, Senator Davis, Senator Harris, Senator Mahathay

B. Employee Appreciation Week- Events/Ideas

1. Dine with Staff Senate scheduled for March 6.
2. Volunteering at the Bear Notes table. Volunteer Hours opportunity
3. Staff Senate will be providing a gift for staff members.

Senator Blew-Suggestion to partner with HR in discussed ideas and events.

Senator Goins- Suggestion to continue with our plan and work with HR to coordinate our efforts and also find out what employees want.

Response- Pres Kern responded that she will send an email to check with Charlotte to see if she will be sending out a survey for feedback.

X. Good and Welfare

- A. Senator Wolfe- Classes for Summer and Fall semesters will be posted to be viewed at the end of February.
- B. Senator Blew- Scholarship deadlines have been extended.
- C. Senator Herrera- Gear Up camps the first two weeks of May.
- D. Senator Vangsnes-Academic planners are available if any students need them. Also offering remote tutoring during the winter storms this week from 3-5 pm.
- E. Senator Turner- The Student Center is open during the winter storms. Bathroom renovations are complete.
- F. Senator Kern- Grateful for the essential personnel during the storms that keep campus running smoothly.
- G. Senator Goins- If students need recovery support, virtual appointments are available as needed. The Community Care Clinic is providing telehealth appointments.

XI. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn at 10:43 by Senator Hanshaw.
- B. Second by Senator Goins.

Important Dates:

- 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