



General Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2026
10:00 am
Student Health 307

Senators Present: 29

Senators Absent: 0

Ex-Officio: Absent

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- I. Call to Order** Meeting called to order by President Kern at 10:00am.
 - II. Approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting**
 - A. First meeting of the new term.
 - III. Guest Speakers**
 - A. None
 - IV. Goals for Y27**
 - A. Keep processes streamlined and ensure there is continuity and consistency.
 - B. Be innovative and empathetic with constituents and their concerns and ideas.
 - C. Operate with transparency.
 - V. Officer Reports**
 - A. President, Sherita Kern
 - 1. Safety Zone App-Please download and use. This is replacing the old app used by UCA.
 - 2. Transition Importance- Update documents to make the transition easier when you leave the position.
 - 3. Senate picture will be scheduled. Time TBD.
 - 4. Guest Speaker Suggestions: Jaclyn Austin, Alex Todd, Kevin Carter
 - B. Vice President, Dylan Richardson
 - 1. Committee Chair and Committee Expectations Committees need to meet and submit Budget proposals before the next meeting.
 - 2. Volunteering is required for all senators- 12 hours. Encourage constituents to volunteer as well.
 - 3. Finance & Administration vacancy-
 - 4. Constitution and By-laws- If you have any questions, please contact drichardson6@uca.edu
 - C. Treasurer, Shalia Delph
 - 1. Treasurer Updates-Balances looking good to start FY27. Any questions, contact sdelph@uca.edu
 - 2. OPs manual-chairs from FY26, please review and update for new committee chairs.
 - 3. Proposed budgets for committees due by next meeting, July 29, 2026.
 - D. Secretary, Teresa Burton
 - 1. Minutes Approval- Please review and suggest any corrections so the minutes can be posted to the website in a timely manner.
 - E. Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer, Bo Blew
 - F. Ex Officio, Jennifer Ruud- Absent
 - VI. Senate Committee Reports**
 - A. Courtesy Committee - 2 cards
 - B. Future Ready Bears- The last day for Future-Ready Bears donation is July 17th.
 - VII. University Committee Reports**
 - VIII. Constituent Concerns/Communication**

- A. **TREC Summer Hours Clarification-** Greetings Richard! I received a concern earlier today regarding the TREC's summer hours. According to the staff member, it used to open at 9 am on Saturday's and now it is only open from 12 pm- 4 pm. They enjoy using it and mentioned it being a part of the staff benefits and wanted an explanation for the decrease of hours open. Would you mind providing a response on the change?

RESPONSE FROM TREC LEADERSHIP Thank you for reaching out and sharing this concern. The change in T-Rec hours is the result of several factors that we have been working through over the past couple of years. As student enrollment has declined, our department's budget has also been impacted because our operating budget is funded directly through student fees. With fewer students contributing to those fees, our available funding has decreased, and we have experienced budget deficits over the last two years. Based on current enrollment trends, we anticipate continued pressure on the budget in the coming years.

Because of that, we worked with University Administration to review our operations and identify areas where adjustments could be made while still maintaining access to the facility. One of the changes we had to consider was reducing facility hours. In doing so, we looked closely at usage data throughout the year to determine when the facility had the lowest number of users. The hours that were reduced were based on those lower-use times and were part of a broader effort to conserve departmental resources.

The new summer hours, as well as the adjusted hours for the fall and spring semesters, were reviewed and decided on by our staff in coordination with the Administration. We understand that any reduction in hours can be frustrating, especially for those who regularly use and value the facility. However, the decision was made after reviewing usage patterns and considering the financial realities facing the department.

We certainly appreciate that faculty and staff see access to the T-Rec as a valued benefit, and we want to continue providing that access as much as possible. At the same time, we have to balance that goal with the need to operate responsibly within our available budget. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

CLARIFICATION: Regarding the issue of declining enrollment: While the sugar spike in enrollment has passed and the cliff has reached us, the statement that student enrollment has declined is certainly false, especially when considering the period from 2021 to the present. While I certainly understand that departments funded through student fees may face budgetary pressures and that operational adjustments are sometimes necessary, attributing these decisions to enrollment decline is not an accurate reflection of UCA's current enrollment reality.

Since 2021, UCA has seen positive momentum in both headcount and student credit hour production. We have welcomed freshman classes exceeding 2,000 students in consecutive years, spring enrollment has increased, and overall enrollment has grown back above 10,000 students. As an example, in fall 2021, the student headcount was 10,105, and this past year it was 9,962 (slight decline), but the student credit hour production over that same time frame grew from 125,273 hours to 128,218 hours.

Tremendous work is being done across campus to recruit, retain, and graduate students and those efforts have produced measurable results. Appreciate you and your leadership!

- B. **Athletic Trainer Salary Inquiry-** Thank you so much for your time and for adding this to the Staff Senate agenda. I really appreciate your willingness to look into it. As Bailey and I have continued gathering information, it appears that Athletic Trainers were effectively split into two groups. Athletic Trainers with faculty appointments received significant upcoming salary adjustments through the faculty salary review process, while staff Athletic Trainers were evaluated through the staff salary study.

I recently received a response from HR indicating that my benchmark target salary is \$38,846, meaning my current salary is considered 134% of market. That target salary seems difficult to reconcile with the responsibilities of an NCAA Division I Athletic Trainer and with available market data for comparable

positions. At this point, my biggest question is not simply why we didn't receive an adjustment, but how the benchmark and target salary for staff Athletic Trainers were established in the first place.

Thank you again for your willingness to help.

RESPONSE- Greetings! If you could send correspondence you have received, that would be great. I brought the concern to the senators' attention at our meeting and will pass along to our compensation committee for further conversations. There are other stakeholders that I think could provide valuable input as it relates to the salary study. If you are interested, I will contact and inquire about scheduling a meeting.

This will most certainly be a part of ongoing conversations and Staff Senate appreciates your advocacy.

IX. Old Business-None

X. New Business

- A. Benefits Vendors Suggestions- National Hearing Center @ Thankful Thursday in November.
- B. Exploring the option of setting up a "health fair" for Staff members with vendors from the community.

XI. Good and Welfare

- A. Senator Smith-There is a new deadline for accessibility of websites - April 2027
- B. Senator Peten- The first fall bills will not go out until the beginning of August.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Motioned by: Senator Watson at 10:48 am.
- B. Second: Senator Davis

Important Dates:

- Next Meeting: July 29th
- August Commencement: Aug. 8th @ 9 am & 12 pm | Reynolds Auditorium
- Move-in: Aug. 16th