UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS | STAFF SENATE

General Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2026
10:00 am
Wingo 315

Senators Present: 24
Senators Absent: 5
Ex-Officio: Present

I. Call to Order
- **A.** Meeting called to order by President Kern at 10am.

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- None

IV. Officer Reports
- **A.** President, Sherita Kern
  1. Benefit & Wellness Fair Volunteers-Oct 19, 2026 RWSC Ballroom
  2. SPARK 2026-Nov 12-Reynolds Performance Hall
- **B.** Vice President, Dylan Richardson
  1. Volunteer hours are sent to HR at the end of the month in which they occur. HR will add those to your leave bank by the end of the following month.
- **C.** Treasurer, Shalia Delph
  1. Budget Update
- **D.** Secretary, Teresa Burton- No report
- **E.** Parliamentarian/Historian/Assistant Treasurer, Bo Blew- No report
- **F.** Ex Officio, Jennifer Ruud
  1. New Staff Initiative-New staff welcomes are ready to go out.

V. Senate Committee Reports
- **A.** Courtesy Committee- No cards
- **B.** Outreach & Communication Committee
  1. Homecoming-Homecoming Candy Drive ongoing until Oct 28th. Drop off locations in Student Center 207 and Buffalo Alumni Hall lobby.
- **C.** WinterFeast Committee- More information to come.
- **D.** Angel Bear Committee- Applications are open until 4:30 on Oct 23rd.

VI. University Committee Reports
- **A.** Veterans Day Committee - Nov 5th in McCastlain Ballroom-Ceremony will be during x-period.

VII. Constituent Concerns/Communication
- **A.** Will there be any changes to the Healthcare plan for next year? Will Bariatric services still be an exclusion? Also, in the summer I turned in a question about weight loss medications. That was not addressed. There is a GLP shot that is FDA approved for weight loss and sleep apnea. Why isn't this covered if someone meets the requirements. Will these be covered next year for obese people or people with sleep apnea?

  RESPONSE-

  SS President: *Thank you for submitting your concern. I understand that the current limitations of the health plan regarding bariatric surgery and GLP'1's can cause frustrations. Despite the limitations, there are a lot of pros to our health plan being self-funded. I encourage contacting a benefits specialist in HR, attending HR events to learn more about all of the details concerning our*

benefits. Discussions are regularly happening across the governing bodies, leadership, HR, and EBAC and will continue.

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.

EBAC response: *The financial deficit in UCA's self-funded plan has taken most of EBAC's time this year. There has been no new action on bariatric surgery or GLP1's since May.*

VIII. Old Business -None

IX. New Business - None

X. Good and Welfare

A. Senator Vangsnes- Student Success services are open during Fall Break for study hours/minutes.

XI. Adjournment

A. Motioned by: Senator Mahathay @ 10:28am.

B. Second: Senator Smith.

Important Dates:

- Dining w/Staff Senate: Oct. 23rd @ 11 am- 1 pm | Executive Dining Room- Christian Cafeteria
- HLC Forum: Building UCA's Future: Oct. 22nd @ x-period | Irby 215
- Thankful Thursday: Nov. 19 @ 12 pm- 2 pm | Student Health Pavillion
- Veterans Day: Nov 5 @ x-period| McCastlain Ballroom
- Staff/Faculty Senate Holiday Mixer: Tuesday, Dec. 1st @ 5pm | President's House
- Winterfeast: Dec. 2nd @ 11am | TREC