

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025
Via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Chair Roy Cordell.

II. Adoption of Agenda

- Chair Cordell shared the agenda in the chat, referencing the version sent by Autumn the previous week.
- A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Allen Porter, seconded by Kim Gillow, and passed unanimously.

III. Roll Call – Vince Capps

- A quorum was established.

IV. Campus Updates

i. Transit and Parking – Gary Smith

- a. Maple Street closed between Gregg and Leverett, with a target reopening date of August 1, 2025. The project includes a cycle track, road elevation, a graded retaining wall, and a widened sidewalk for future use as a senior sidewalk.
- b. Stadium Drive closed from just north of Meadow Street to south of the Stadium Drive garage driveway, with closure extending south to the north roundabout near Pomfret Hall starting June 9, 2025. Completion is targeted before fall classes, ideally before move-in.
- c. Summer bus hours extended to 8:00 PM (previously 6:00 PM) Monday through Saturday for non-peak routes.
- d. No permit or violation fee increases for FY26.
- e. Parking study decisions expected by August 2025, with minimal changes for fall due to planning requirements.
- f. Walmart Associates Week: Move-in begins May 25, 2025; meeting on June 6, 2025. Meadow Street garage will be power-washed.
- g. High school graduations at Bud Walton and Barnhill from May 14–17, 2025, with rehearsals and ceremonies.
- h. Softball regional tournament expected to increase traffic.
- i. Residence Hall construction delayed 2–3 weeks. Affected permit holders relocated to Lot 300 north of Razorback Stadium; some spaces may remain north of Epley.
- j. Patient parking for Epley moved to remaining spaces north of Epley; four additional ADA spaces added at Poultry Science Circle.

ii. Human Resources – Amy Ochoa

- a. EVP survey launched, with nearly 1,000 participants as of May 13, 2025. The survey, open until May 16, takes 10–15 minutes. Senators encouraged to promote participation.
- b. Performance management vendor selection in final stages, with a decision expected by the following week.
- c. Concerns raised about hourly employees editing their own time clocks. A broader project to review hourly payroll processes is planned.
- d. Position management cleanup underway to address excessive vacant extra-help positions and

improper classifications. A new security level will limit transaction submissions to HR coordinators/partners.

V. Approval of Minutes

- A motion to approve the April meeting minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously via voice vote with no edits proposed.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Trish Watkins

a. Current Balances

- Current maintenance budget balance: \$8,398, with a \$1,227 obligation pending.
- April expenses included Chartwells snacks for the “Meet Your Senators” event and a \$10 table setup fee (coded as equipment rental).
- Total budget balance: \$16,117, focusing on maintenance.
- Employee of the Quarter cash awards request submitted for processing.

VII. Committee Reports

i. Awards – Allen Porter

- a. A missing document was reviewed for Team of the Year awards, confirming the University Relations Video Production Team as the winner.
- b. A newswire will be prepared, and awards (plaques and bonuses) will be presented at the staff picnic on May 14, 2025.

ii. Elections – Ruth Parcells

- a. Current officer nominations: Autumn Parker (Chair, accepted), Trish Watkins (Vice Chair, later declined), Michela Cupello (Treasurer, accepted), Vince Capps (Secretary, accepted), Lance Grigsby (Secretary, withdrawn due to increased responsibilities).
- b. Jen Boyer nominated and accepted for Vice Chair.
- c. Nominations were deferred to New Business for final closure.

iii. Awards – Ashley Reeves

a. Employee of the Quarter winners:

- Michelle Muzzillo (Professional/Administrative, UREC)
- Jeremy Bowerman (Skilled Craft/Service and Maintenance, Power Plant)
- Caleb Hatz (Professional/Academic, College of Engineering)
- David Parette (Technical/Paraprofessional, Chemistry and Biochemistry)

b. No nominations in the secretary/clerical category; one nomination secured for the next cycle.

c. Discussion on revising award categories, particularly the outdated “secretary/clerical” title. Proposal to form an ad hoc committee to review job families and simplify categorization.

iv. Legislative – Karmen Boddie

- a. Executive Order (April 23, 2025) reforms higher education accreditation.

- b. Transparency on foreign influence required by the Higher Education Act of 1965.
- c. Public Service Loan Forgiveness redefinition underway.
- d. Governor Huckabee vetoed a \$190,000 salary for a DEI position at UAMS.
- e. Two new UA System Board members appointed on March 13, 2025: Randy Lawson and Judd Deer.
- f. New student loan repayment options proposed but not yet official.
- g. Arkansas law prohibits state funds for promotional items made in China (effective August 1, 2025). Legal counsel requested to provide guidance on compliance.

v. Special Events – Becca Clifton

- a. Staff Picnic scheduled for May 14, 2025, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM at 1021 Dining Hall (Brough Commons).
- b. Setup begins at 8:00 AM with tables delivered the previous afternoon. Vendors secured.
- c. Check-in table to distribute tear-off tickets for dining hall access; no ID scanning required.
- d. Catering arranged for Uptown campus staff.
- e. Pizza delivery for second/third-shift workers at ADSB on May 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM.
- f. Volunteers needed for check-in, bag distribution, and vendor support.
- g. Attire: Staff Senate T-shirt or red clothing with name tags. Tent will provide shade at the check-in table.

VII. Old Business

i. Award Category Review

- Motion to revise the “secretary/clerical” award category to be reviewed in July 2025 to maintain consistency for the current fiscal year’s awards.

VIII. New Business

i. Officer Elections

- Nominations closed with: Autumn Parker (Chair), Jen Boyer (Vice Chair), Michela Cupello (Treasurer), Vince Capps (Secretary).
- Final vote scheduled for the June 2025 meeting per bylaws, with acclamation anticipated.

ii. Catastrophic Leave Resolution

- a. Motion to take up the resolution for discussion and final dispensation was made, seconded, and passed (17 votes).
- b. Motion made, seconded, and passed (16 votes) to remove “smaller” from “various other smaller colleges,” replacing it with “various other colleges.”
- c. Information provided: Walmart and JB Hunt do not offer catastrophic leave programs.
- d. Motion to approve the resolution as amended was made by Trish Watkins, seconded by Ruth Parcels, and passed unanimously (18 votes, Chair abstained).
- e. Chair Cordell to print, sign, and deliver the resolution to the Chancellor per policy 810.1.

IX. Chair’s Report – Roy Cordell

- a. Catastrophic leave resolution discussions ongoing with Chancellor Robinson.
- b. Indirect return issue raised: Three agencies capped indirect rates at 15% (from 50%), impacting grant funding. Lawsuits filed; temporary stays on two. NSF awards after May 5, 2025, cannot be accepted at 15% rates.

X. Around the Senate

- No items discussed due to time constraints.

XI. Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made by Ruth Parcels, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:01 PM.

Attendance: Katy Adams, Karmen Boddie, Jen Boyer, Chris Butler, Vince Capps, Becca Clifton, Roy Cordell, Michela Cupello, AnReckez Daniels, Alisha Gilbride, Kim Gillow, Lance Grigsby, Ali Johnson, Katherine Miller, Ruth Parcels, Autumn Parker, Ben Pollock, Allen Porter, Ashley Reeves, Jason Riley, Christopher Robinson, Stephen Ritterbush, Shannon Siebler, Mary Skinner, Myrlinda Soedjede, Trish Watkins, and Carrie Whitmer.

Absent: Erin Butler, Hershel Hartford, John Jackson, Dani McCool, Lee Shoultz, and Kaitlyn Rigg