MINUTES

Staff Senate
September 17, 2026
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
3002 Gilbert Place and Zoom

Present: President Amber Hagan, Amanda Pester, Amie Howard, Andrea Green, Caleb Spencer, Chris Whitlock, Denise Crawford, Emily Simpson, Gabe Petry, Jasmine Boyd, Jo Ellen Surface, Joseph K. Goodman, Kathaleen (Katey) Carr, Katherine (Katie) Bisset, Kelly McPherson, LaTawnya Burleson, Lizzie Ogle, Lori Greiner, Maynard Hoover, Mimi Harris, Morgan Stephens, Nikki Gland-Turpin, Pamela Zapp, Rhonda Hawley, Tamarah Smith, Wendy Hodge,

Absent with Notice: Angela Worrell, Clay Crumpler, Mary Sullivan, Kayla Robertson

Absent: Patricia (Pat) Donovan, Brian Huddleston, Jennifer Pike, Chelle (Stella) Darr Furguson, Misti Acosta, James David Kittinger, Angel Carter, Sophia Minor

Guests: Alex Rico, Alison Nordgren, Amber Gross, Amy Ingram, April Myers, Carrie Cross, Chenaye Higginbotham, Christy Stanley, Deborah (Debbie) Warren, Demetria (Dee Dee) Somervell, Hallie Harriman, Katherine Burnam, Laura Carruba, Leigh Beatty, Lucinda Shewchuk, Marty Wyatt, Melissa Elliott, Rebecca Osborne, Sally Shupe, Sonja Crockett, Sonya Murdock, Stacey Kuhar, Sue Ellen Crocker

President Amber Hagan called the meeting to order at 10:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. **Adoption of Agenda**

   A motion was made to amend the agenda by adding a vote under New Business to appoint Lizzie Ogle, the current alternate for the President and Vice Presidents constituency group, to fill a vacant senator position in that constituency group. The motion was seconded and carried.
   A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda with this change. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of August 20th, 2026 Staff Senate meeting minutes.**

   - A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Unfinished Business**

   Senator Vacancies Announced
   Vice President for Campus Planning and Facilities (3 vacancies)

   Committee Vacancies Announced
   Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee

4. **New Business**

   Library Committee - Vote
   A senator vote was held and passed for Ronald Meacham to be appointed Library Committee

   University Staff Senate Senator – Vote
   A senator vote was held and passed for Alison Wolfe to serve as a Staff Senator for Vice President for Campus Planning and Facilities

A senator vote was held and passed for Lizzie Ogle to serve as a Staff Senator for President and Vice Presidents

Bylaw Changes: Officer Title Change – Second Reading, Vote
A second reading was presented to change the Officer title "Secretary/Treasurer" to "Operations Officer" in the Staff Senate Bylaws, which better aligns with the duties of the position as well as aligning our senate with other Senate governance changes.

A senator vote was held and passed. CSPA will work to update the Constitution to reflect the name change.

5. Reports

CSPA
- CSPA had their first meeting on September 10th, 2026; Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2:30pm following. Any employee or student can attend. The Zoom link was provided.
- Working on crafting the first few resolutions: bereavement leave for staff, Veteran's Day for all employees, staff voluntary contributions reporting.
- Participants raised ideas and concerns of other items they would like CSPA to investigate and were encouraged to reach out to Gabe Petry or Amber Hagan directly.

Employee Benefits Committee
- Katie Bissett said she is on the Employee Benefits Committee and they've asked for suggestions. She will send out a survey for staff to make submissions and potentially work with CSPA as many of their items will likely align.

6. Other Items

Staff Senate Committee Chairs
Amber Hagan recognized the following 2026-2027 Staff Senate Committee Chairs.
- Communications: Kayla Robertson, Sophia Minor, Caleb Spencer
- Engagement and Access: Caleb Spencer
- Elections and Nominations: Jasmine Boyd
- McComas Leadership Seminar Planning: Nikki Gland-Turpin
- Policies and Issues committee still does not have a chair if there is interest

Staff Recognition Award
Amber Hagan presented the Staff Recognition award to staff members who received nominations for their exceptional work and dedication.

7. Announcements

- The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. In-person attendance is encouraged at 3002 Gilbert Place. Zoom will also be available. Guest speaker: TBD
- If you are not presently on the Staff Senate email listserv or Microsoft Teams channel and want to be added to stay informed, contact Jasmine Boyd.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.