



## STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 13, 2025 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

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- I. Call to Order was promptly at 10 a.m.
- II. Roll Call – Grant Stone, Jamie Wilson, Brittany Chadwick, Matthew Moore, Robbie Rhodes, Kendra Rodgers, Anna Crawford, Taylor Haigler, Karen Petit, Pleshette Elmore, Wyatt McInerney, Brittany Brissey

Excused absences: Buck Billings, Sydney Stanley. Perrin Rickenbaker joined online.

- III. The Administrative Report: Dr. Matthew Hammett, Executive Director of the S.C. Institute on the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

Dr. Hammett, a Lander alumnus, said that it is an honor to return to campus to serve Lander and the state of South Carolina. Prior to his appointment at Lander, Matthew worked at Wofford College where he was the Director for Civil Rights and Student Risk Assessment, as well as the Title IX Coordinator. Since joining the Institute in January 2024, he has worked with colleges and universities throughout the state on the prevention of sexual violence. He discussed how sexual violence can lead to anxiety, depression, and PTSD among victims, along with a lack of interest in relationships and normal activities. Sexual assault also can cause many students to spiral academically and socially. Many victims blame themselves as part of their trauma, he said.

The institute works closely with Title IX offices on campuses, as well as campus safety units and college and university leaders. “This work is very important,” Dr. Hammett said, noting that efforts are vital in getting people to the supportive services they need.

Over the past year, 17 grants totaling \$60,000 have been awarded to colleges and universities for prevention efforts. Two of those grants were awarded to Lander.

- IV. Chair Report: Taylor Haigler  
Taylor praised Adam Taylor for his assistance to the Staff Senate and thanked Senate members for their work on bylaws.
- V. Division Announcements:  
Grant Stone distributed the book, “Lander University,” by Dr. David Mash and Lisa Wiecki to the Staff Senate as a gift from the Jackson Library.

Jamie Wilson encouraged staff to attend athletic events throughout the week and pointed out that 59 home games would be held on campus in February.

### Staff Senate Mission Statement

The Lander University Staff Senate exists to enhance the welfare of its staff; to serve as a liaison between staff, administration, faculty, and students; and to advise the administration on matters concerning the staff. This focus provides staff a voice to promote a positive, respectful work environment that sustains both personal and professional growth. In support of the university’s strategic plan, specifically the goal of remaining an employer of choice, the senate strives foremost to contribute to the overall success of Lander University and its students.

- VI. A motion was made to adjourn the open session by Taylor Haigler, with a second made by Matt Moore. The open session was adjourned.

## **Executive Session**

- I. Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved with the correction of the spelling of Robbie Rhodes' name.
- II. Organization Updates: Taylor said that there were vacancies of the Senate seats of Jeff Reynolds and Jason Smith.

Discussions were held on ways to recognize staff when the Office Spotlight was announced. Ideas include providing doughnuts and coffee for the office or allowing the staff to have a free meal swipe.

Further discussion examined ways to enhance the recognition given to Employee of the Month award recipients.

- III. Discussion of Organizational Structure and Bylaws:
- 1) Taylor reviewed the changes to the Staff Senate Bylaws by the Bylaws Committee and said she would send the changes to Senate members via email so that they could be reviewed and then voted on at the March meeting. (Update: Email with proposed Bylaws changes sent from Taylor on February 17.)
  - 2) Taylor also discussed the duties of the Staff Senate board, and noted that a Chair-Elect, when voted on by the Staff Senate, would attend meetings in place of the chair as requested and preside over Senate committees.
  - 3) The Staff Senate also discussed that there would be three committees, rather than five. The new committees are the Communications Committee, the Employee Appreciation and Recognition Committee and the Professional Development Committee. Taylor asked Staff Senate members to be prepared to let her know the committee on which they would like to serve.
  - 4) It was discussed that the Staff Appreciation Day is scheduled for the week before Memorial Day.
- IV. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

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