



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

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

- I. Call to Order was promptly at 10 a.m.
- II. Roll Call – Perrin Rickenbaker, 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, Kendra Rogers, Wyatt McInerney

- III. The Administrative Report: Adam Taylor, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Adam Taylor discussed that the South Carolina House of Representatives was reviewing the budget for state agencies, including the state's colleges and universities. Lander is a \$126 million operation, he told the Staff Senate, saying, "We are very proud of where we are," and praising the Greenwood Legislative Delegation members for their support of the University.

Lander received \$14.7 million in 2023 and \$19.8 million in 2024 from the South Carolina Legislature. The University spends 54 percent of its budget on the instruction of students, and Taylor said the State of South Carolina has mandated that colleges and universities freeze tuition for six years – although Lander has frozen its tuition for 10 consecutive years, which is among a select handful of colleges and universities nationwide to achieve this.

Among other financial matters:

- Lander is requesting an additional \$600,000 to the South Carolina Institute on the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses.
- The University is asking for capital funds of \$12,010,000 to help maintain campus buildings, including \$9 million for the Carnell Learning Center.
- Centennial Hall will be paid off in 2026; New Hall will be paid off in 2029.
- Lander's 718 employees' salaries account for \$34 million in the budget.
- Lander's new nursing building and Information Commons are already paid for.
- The Legislature is proposing a 2 percent pay increase for state employees.

He thanked the Staff Senate for the members' work, noting that since July 1 the group has instituted the online Suggestion Box for employees; has restructured its meetings and replaced vacancies on the Staff Senate with new members. "We are moving forward," he said. "I am excited about the future."

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.

Chair Report: Taylor Haigler

Taylor thanked the members for their commitment to Staff Senate. praised Adam Taylor for his assistance to the Staff Senate and thanked Senate members for their work on the updated Bylaws.

IV. Division Announcements:

Jamie Wilson said that Lander Athletics would honor the military and first responders at the Bearcats baseball game at 6 p.m. April 11.

V. A motion was made to adjourn the open session by Brittany Chadwick, with a second made by Brittany Brissey. The open session was adjourned.

Executive Session

I. Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved.

II. Vote to Approve Bylaws: Taylor reviewed the changes to the Staff Senate Bylaws. With a quorum present, the updates to the Bylaws were approved.

III. Officer Elections: Matt Moore and Pleshette Elmore announced that Brittany Brissey was nominated to be Chair-Elect and was elected Chair-Elect by acclamation. Brittany Chadwick was elected Treasurer by Senate vote.

IV. Committee Planning: Staff Senate members selected their preferences for committee positions.

V. Open Discussion: Staff Appreciation Day will take place the week before Memorial Day. Taylor asked Staff Senate to brainstorm ideas.

VI. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

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