**Subject:** September Staff Senate Newsletter
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 8:30:59 AM Central Daylight Time
**From:** Staff Senate
**To:** Smart, Walker




# September 2026 Meeting Highlights

## Guest Speakers

**Dr. Albert Bimper,** Interim Provost

**Wendy Comfort,** Associate Director, Recreational Sports

**Sue Aichele,** Director Human Resources

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# Speaker Recap

The meeting focused on key university initiatives, employee resources, and policy updates. **Dr. Albert Bimper, Interim Provost,** discussed efforts to optimize enrollment, improve course scheduling and capacity, explore potential 3-year degree pathways, and advance college realignment planning, while also reviewing SMART Scheduling results and updates to the Grade Replacement Policy. **Wendy Comfort, Associate Director of Recreational Sports,** highlighted expanded recreation services, including group fitness classes, outdoor programs, equipment rentals, wellness outreach opportunities, and ongoing Recreation Center renovations that will increase fitness space and equipment capacity. **Sue Aichele, Human Resources,** provided updates on salary increase discussions, state-managed healthcare benefits, employee support resources, inclement weather communications, supervisor training requests, and the continued review of the bereavement leave policy, emphasizing a commitment to greater transparency throughout the process. Overall, the discussion centered on improving student success, enhancing campus resources, supporting employees, and gathering feedback to inform future decisions.

See more on our General Assembly Meetings page

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## October Staff Senate Office Hours

## Hurley 115A

## Welcoming space to share ideas, ask questions, discuss concerns, and connect with your Staff Senator

- 10/1/2026 10am-11am Ethan Gillis, Division of Enrollment
- 10/7/2026 10am-11am Toni Clarkson, Student Affairs
- 10/9/2026 2-3 pm Zach Yeager, Academic Affairs
- 10/13/2026 4-5 pm Zach Yeager, Academic Affairs
- 10/15/2026 12pm-2pm Philip Aguinaga, Academic Affairs
- 10/21/2026 2:30 - 3:30 pm Zach Yeager, Academic Affairs
- 10/26/2026 10am to 11am Chad Flenar, Advancement

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## President's Staff Lunch

## Monday, October 5th from 11:30am - 1pm, Union 314

# Where to Go



## Staff Senate Resources

**Professional Development**

LinkedIn Learning

Micro Credentials

UNT Values

Cash Control & Departmental Deposit Training

Staff Professional Development Fund

Employee Tuition Benefit

UNT Connect Intranet

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## What staff events do YOU want?

The purpose of this survey is to gauge what kind of event program would be most beneficial and needed for staff. Despite requiring a UNT login, this survey is anonymous.

Take the Survey

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Featured Training: Why AI Dread Hits Hard 10/8

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# LinkedIn Spotlight

**For Students, Faculty and Staff**

**Course: How to use LinkedIn Learning**

**Course: Time Management Tips**

**For Supervisors**

**Collection:** ***Recommended by Organizational Development and Engagement, ODE*** - The UNT System HR Organizational Development and Engagement, ODE, team has reviewed several courses and recommends these for supervisors and their teams. View courses on customer service techniques, communication, and technical skills. If you would like to make a recommendation after viewing a course, please send an email to **ODE@untsystem.edu**.

# What to Know

# Well-Being @ Work

Wellbeing @ Work is a monthly campaign designed to meet faculty and staff where they are and provide support and resources for their wellbeing — mentally, emotionally, physically, socially and financially. From virtual stretches to social walks, guided meditations, Zumba and more: Calendar. Wellbeing @ Work also includes webinars and articles faculty and staff can use as resources when it is convenient for them.

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Nominate an Integrity Champion Here

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# Homecoming 2026

Want to be part of the one of the UNT Homecoming's biggest traditions? We're looking for passionate, engaged staff and faculty to help make this year's Homecoming celebration one to remember.  If you're ready to get involved, meet fellow Mean Green community members, and play a special role in Homecoming, this us your chance! Apply today and join us in making Homecoming 2026 unforgettable!

Homecoming 2026 Info

# Connect with Staff Senate

## Staff Professional Development Fund

The UNT Staff Development Fund is a professional growth initiative designed to empower staff members at the University of North Texas to continue learning, expanding their skills, and strengthening their career pathways. Staff Senate wants to welcome you to apply to the fund. By offering up to $400 in financial support for learning opportunities, UNT ensures that staff members have equitable access to growth regardless of departmental budget constraints.

Learn More

# Join Us at Our Next Meeting

Meetings are open to all UNT staff members.
Please join us at 2 p.m. in Union 332 for the next meeting on October 13th.

Can't make it in person?
Stream the meeting via Zoom

Can't make the meeting time?
Submit your concern via the Send in your news, events, and announcements for inclusion in the Staff Senate Newsletter and Social Media Channels.

# Contact Us

For questions, comments, or announcement submissions,
please email: staffsenate@unt.edu.

# Why UNT?

**Featuring: Jeff Garmon: Guardian of the Green**




"As a teacher of secondary education (Mathematics) and the head Coach for Varsity HS gymnastics for the past 25 years, I was ready to retire and look for a part-time job. However, I had 2 daughters attending UNT and being a “Mean Green” Alumni, class of 1999, I started looking into jobs at UNT.  Seeing that an advisory position at UNT would allow me to continue helping students pursue their goals in higher education, as well as giving back to the University where I got my BS in Mathematics and minor in Computer Science. It has been such a blessing to get to help students as well as my daughters

pursue their dreams; It has become a continuation/extension of my 25 years as a teacher and a coach.  I love being actively involved in helping others achieve their goals."

*Email Staff Senate staffsenate@unt.edu to nominate a coworker to be featured in our next newsletter.*

# Important Links

Vacation Leave

Longevity Pay

Holiday Calendar

HR Well-Being Calendar

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**Your voice. Our mission.**

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