

STAFF SENATE MEETING

April 9, 2024 – 3 p.m.

In Person, Senate Chambers (Union 332)

Minutes

I. Call to Order

A. 3:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A. Quorum met

- Senators absent: Tracie Frey, Tammy McDaniel, John McIntire

III. VOTE to Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes ([3/12/24](#))

A. Minutes approved unanimously

IV. Guest Speakers

A. Blair Wilson, Human Resources Manager, UNT System

- Updates – New Gallup survey is out right now and is completely anonymous, PageUp replaces PeopleAdmin, Performance Evaluations due May 31.
- Q: Senator Clingan asked about payroll deduction gifts being pre-tax or post-tax. A: Not sure; Blair will look into it and let us know.
- Q: Senator Bellon asked about pay scale research. A: Wrapping up the compensation study; Blair will get back to us with timeline.
- Q: Chair-Elect Landau asked about updated performance review timeline? A: Eventually moving to PageUp; still working out details. Blair will get back to us.

B. Senator Toni Sorsdal, Compliance Manager, UNT Division of Integrity and Compliance

- New process for visiting scholars – if you have someone who is interested in hosting a visiting scholar, you have Toni, Sarah R. and Rekha G. as great partners/resources.

C. Sally Carne, Intl Risk Control Coordinator, Risk Mgmt Services

- Travel abroad must be submitted to Risk Management and be approved. This is for insurance purposes (covers emergencies and non-emergencies). Register the travel, await communications from RM. Upon confirmation, contact insurance company or at least download their contact info to your phone.
- Q: Senator Ames asked if this is for all international travel or just UNT-related? A: Only if related to UNT business.
- Q: Senator Dickenson asked if coaches are required to do this too? A: Yes, all employees, including coaches, are government employees and must be approved prior to international travel.
- Q: Chair-Elect Landau asked how long of a process this is – what timeline should people expect? A: 3 weeks, but can put a rush on it if needed.
- Q: Senator Gopalakrishnan asked if process is different if employee is international? A: No, all employees must submit. Students, too, but they'll have to pay for the insurance at a nominal price.

D. Dillon McDaniel, Associate Director, Parking Services

- We're not raising the prices for F/S parking permits. As a reminder, State law restricts us from using tuition for parking expenses, so this service and department are auxiliary and must pay for themselves, hence the fee for parking passes and citations. Also not allowed to use eminent domain lands for parking lots. There is no free parking on campus. Expanding the bike program and have great shuttle

service. Transit is entirely funded by transit fee that students pay. That fee has not increased since its inception.

- We're increasing the permit price on one permit – gated portion of HSG 1st floor \$1200 to \$1350. We're also making one new permit. For UCG – own permit, priced between F/S and A, users can park on first and second floors (top floor and surface lot remain visitor ParkMobile only).
- ParkMobile pop-ups will be in unsold areas of A lots (e.g., south end of 24 or west Lot 8). If they sell out, they'll go back to A spaces. Lot 7 is being lost to STEM building. A permits historically could be purchased through mid-October – now, they will have to make that decision earlier so we can fill those spaces during the highest need of the year.
- Student parking – Lot 59 to account for loss of Lot 7. Several of the resident reserved lots no longer make sense because they are no longer “worth it” for students. A few of the lots will be flipped (like Lot 27). Not increasing student permit prices or citation prices. Trying to market eRide better to further grow that program.
- Q: Senator Ames asked about hail – a lot of faculty and staff take cover in the UCG. A: Overall more people should have more access in general.
- Q: Past-Chair Cunningham asked how to explain to staff that the un-used A spaces will now be charged. A: You now have the option. Previously, those spaces could not be used at all. Also reduces confusion (as opposed to splitting lot). Still adjacent to building and considered “premium” parking.
- Q: Senator Ottinger asked how will it be communicated? A: There will be permanent signage. If the spaces get converted to A spaces, the signage will be removed.
- Q: Senator Jordan asked about having to pay more after having paid for a permanent pass. A: Yes, but buying the A space is an option instead.
- Q: Senator Causey asked if A spaces will be released early? A: Just a chance to get it earlier to use the spaces more effectively.
- Q: Chair-Elect Landau asked about A frame board put out and then taken down because of pushback from staff. Removing spaces in UCG as an option. There will be fewer spots at an affordable price. Most people will not pay \$400 to pay for parking. Past-Chair Cunningham said it's going to be a bigger deal than you realize. A: It is premium parking being covered in Texas.
- Q: Senator Ellis said staff will leave if we get to the point where you have to bus into the center of campus. A: That was not the intention.
- Q: Senator Ottinger said she often runs errands for work. There's not a place to pull up and drop off. A: Valid point. Students have the same issue with groceries, laundry, etc.

V. Constituency Concerns

A. Call for new constituent concerns

- Senator Ames brought up firings at UT-Austin. We don't want that to happen here. Chair-Elect Landau said UT's org structure was not like ours is. We want to do whatever we can do to make sure we're in compliance. As a Senate we've been meticulous to reach out to OGC, Clay, Pres, etc. and we're doing a good job as an institution to structure it correctly. It's always a fear but we are in a better situation than they were.

VI. Officer Reports

A. Chair Report – Quortina Phipps (she/her/hers)

- In the process of solidifying new committee. We want to do our diligence and we are taking it very seriously.
- B. Chair-Elect Report – Brittany Landau (she/her/hers)
 - Thanks to all who stepped up to table and help with SAM. We interacted with a lot of people. More will come. Good way for us to start getting ourselves out there.
- C. Secretary/Treasurer Report – Megan Wheeler
 - Minutes from earlier in the meeting are already published online. This is my last meeting as a Senator.
- D. Communications Report – Kara Ottinger (she/her/hers)
 - No report
- E. Parliamentarian Report – Anna Phelan (she/her/hers)
 - Elections are open and will be closed Monday, April 15 (AcadAffa, EnrEnterprise, Fin&Admin, StuAffairs). If you're in that division, vote and encourage others to. Check spam, clutter, junk, etc. New senators will be announced Friday, April 19.
- F. Assessment Coordinator Report – Taylor Jordan (she/her/hers)
 - No report
- G. Past-Chair Report – Megan Cunningham (she/her/hers)
 - We reached back out about the Presidential Search Advisory Committee – Megan Wheeler has been appointed.

VII. Standing Committee Chair Reports

- A. Communications and Public Relations – Sarah Romack
 - None
- B. Membership and Assessment – John Bellon
 - None
- C. Staff Success – Wendy Comfort / Toni Sorsdal
 - April 24 – Pop Up Popcorn event from 2-4 p.m.
 - Lunch & Learns in May, June, and July – Blair (HR), Wendy (Health & Wellness), Amanda Fisher (HR) all agreed to lead development events.

VIII. University Committee Updates

- A. Call for committee updates
 - none

IX. Old Business

- A. President's Farewell Gift/Video
 - Chair-Elect Landau said thanks for helping promote. Video editors are working on it. Charcuterie board and items will be presented to him. Staff Senate officers will be providing him with items and saying kind things.
- B. Upcoming Programming Sign-Up Needs
 - Chair-Elect Landau said that with all the need volunteers – sign-up sheets will be on Teams.
- C. Bylaw Updates and Implementation
 - Already started to update things. Will need to have these done by the time new senators get here in May/June. All of the changes we discussed start after commencement.
- D. Elections Updates
 - No additional updates (report given earlier in meeting)

X. New Business

- A. Website Updates

- Senator Ottinger said we are moving from content management systems from Drupal to Omni Modern Campus. Hopefully our Staff Senate website will get converted over the summer to get ready for fall.
- B. Senate Promo Items
- Want to be good stewards of our budget. Utilizing remaining funds for items that will be put to good use.

XI. Announcements

- A. Guest speaker at the May general assembly meeting will be President Smatresk
- B. Thank you for your service and for all you've done for the Senate and your constituents.

XII. Adjournment / Dismissal to Standing Committees

- A. 4:17 p.m.