Subject: October Staff Senate Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 4:40:04 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Staff Senate
To: Smart, Walker

Staff Senate NEWSLETTER



October 2026 Meeting Highlights

Guest Speakers

Liz Cosgrove Ford, Senior Director, International Student and Scholar Services

Sue Aichele, Human Resources

Jeanette Garriga, President's Office Liaison

Speaker Recap

Liz Cosgrove Ford | International Student and Scholar Services

Liz shared updates on proposed federal policies that could affect international students, including visa duration, academic transfers, CPT requirements, and OPT fees. ISSS continues to host informational workshops and post updates online. Employees may submit public comments as private citizens, while official university feedback must follow established channels.

Sue Aichele | Human Resources

Sue provided updates on the bereavement leave policy and addressed staff feedback regarding employee evaluations and rating calibration. HR will use feedback to improve future training. She also encouraged employees to document accomplishments through the evaluation system's journaling feature and explained how to request manual additions of international educational credentials.

Jeanette Garriga | President's Office Liaison

No formal updates were provided. Discussion focused on concerns with spring SMART scheduling, including course availability, consideration of advisor feedback, and the need for consistent communication with all advising staff.

See more on our General Assembly Meetings Page

November Staff Senate Office Hours

Hurley 115A

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

- 11/5/2026 10a.m.-11a.m. Toni Clarkson, Student Affairs
- 11/9/2026 3p.m.-4p.m. Zach Yeager, Academic Affairs

- 11/13/2026 10a.m.-11a.m. Chad Flenar, Advancement
- 11/17/2026 2p.m.-4p.m. Philip Aguinaga, Academic Affairs
- 11/18/2026 10:30a.m.-11:30a.m. Zach Yeager, Academic Affairs
- 11/19/2026 10a.m.-11a.m. Toni Clarkson, Student Affairs

President Keller's State of the University

Be sure and mark your calendars: Faculty and staff are invited to President Keller's State of the University address at 3 p.m. on Nov. 12 in the Murchison Performing Arts Center. He'll be presenting updates related to UNT's Look North five-year strategic plan. Doors will open at 2 p.m., and a light reception will follow the presentation. Event parking will be in Lot 20. The event also will be livestreamed.

Where to Go



Staff Senate Resources

News

My.unt.edu

North Texas Daily

UNT News

Professional Development

LinkedIn Learning

Microcredentials

Bridge Learning

ODA Trainings

UNT Values

Cash Control & Departmental Deposit Training

Staff Professional Development Fund

Employee Tuition Benefit

UNT Connect Intranet

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

LinkedIn Spotlight

Ethics in the Age of Generative AI

LinkedIn Learning and Business Operations Training

A number of LinkedIn Learning courses and libraries are available as recommendations on UNT's Business Operations Training site hosted on UNT Bridge. Employees and supervisors can use UNT Bridge to manage mandated and optional training activities.

UNT Career Academy on Coursera

The UNT Career Academy on Coursera offers UNT students, faculty and staff FREE access to world-class professional certificates from industry leaders such as Google, Meta, IBM, Salesforce, and more.

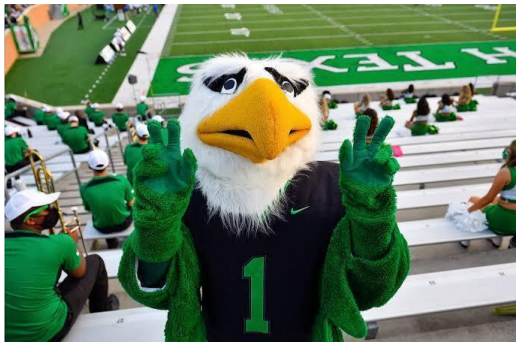
What is Happening



Legacy, Pride, and Campus Spirit

Homecoming at the University of North Texas is more than a week on the calendar. It's an invitation to be part of something bigger than yourself. Nearly a century of Mean Green moments have shaped the traditions we treasure today, and each year, Homecoming becomes the moment when past, present and future come together.

Whether alumni are returning to campus with memories to relive or students and staff are stepping into their very first Homecoming experience, this is the chance to help carry UNT's legacy forward. Discover Homecoming 2026!



Caption This

Think you've got a caption worthy of Scrappy? Put your creativity to the test! Email your best caption to staffsenate@unt.edu with the subject line "Scrappy Caption". The winner will receive a Staff Senate swag bag, and the winning caption will be announced in next month's newsletter. Let's see what you've got, Eagles!

What to Know

Updated FY27 Merit Eligibility Requirements and Deadlines

UNT has updated its FY27 merit eligibility requirements for the December 1, 2026, effective date. Employees must receive a performance rating of 2.5 or higher and meet all eligibility requirements. Required training and compliance items, including FERPA, Ethics, and Title IX training, along with the Annual Acknowledgement in Employee Self-Service, must be completed by October 31, 2026. Supervisors should review outstanding requirements and ensure all deadlines are met for eligible employees to be considered for merit increases.

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 Nov. 10th.

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: Jaime Thomson: Mean Green Connector



"I wanted to work at UNT because I fell in love with Denton the first time I visited, and I stayed for the people. I've been lucky enough to be part of some outstanding teams,

with colleagues who respect and support one another. They have made all of the struggles and all of the challenges worth the hard work."

Email Staff Senate to nominate a coworker to be featured in our next newsletter.

Important Links

Vacation Leave

Longevity Pay

Holiday Calendar

HR Well-Being Calendar

UNT | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT Staff Senate

Your voice. Our mission.

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