

STAFF SENATE MEETING**July 8, 2025, minutes****In Person, BLB 010****I. Call to Order****II. Roll Call****III. VOTE to Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (6/10/2025)****IV. Guest Speakers****A. Blair Wilson, Human Resources**

- Summer enrollment has started and ends 18th
 1. Go to UNT benefits website and ERS website
<https://www.ers.texas.gov/active-employees/summer-enrollment-2026>
(HRbenefits@untsystem.edu)
 2. Also has webinars you can attend!
 3. Take a minute to go into TRS and be sure the information is updated and if you want to make changes DO NOT wait until the 18th and try to get it sooner than later!
- Fiscal Year – for adjustments of staff positions
- Vacation lapsing is Saturday, September 6th. If you are reaching the limit of what can be rolled over, can go ahead and use it or it will be converted to sick time
- June 30th – coaching session has been completed. If not complete, it's okay. You still have time to go ahead and complete it. Automatic emails have started to be sent out for those who haven't completed it.
 1. If any issues need to be updated, reach out to business partner
- New survey will be conducted asking about thoughts, suggestions, complaints and opinions about coaching sessions
- A new DIY toolkit has been created, so if you were looking to find a mentor or be a mentor you can connect with them. Those will run through July – more to come!

B. Megan Wheeler, President's Office Liaison**V. Constituency Concerns****A. Call for New Constituent Concerns**

- Why are some employees working more remotely and others not? Even though some are in the same division?
 1. From Blair - There are areas where employees can submit requests for remote work. As of right now flexible work arrangements are still in place, depending on the unit and supervisor. Can work with Blair and HR
- One employee – one conference rule?
 1. Due to budget cuts, it is going to limit how many people are able to attend conferences, it could be one but depending on the department there could be more. But there will be limits due to finances.
- Formula and finances down across campus – will President Keller cut off people?

1. He has stated before and in other meetings, that he doesn't plan on doing so and not having that as an option on the table
- Hiring freeze – needs approval from cabinet. Why are there still job postings? Why are we hiring people?
 1. Most job postings are supported by their own funding sources. In some cases, requests are submitted to the President's Office for approval to move forward with filling a position. Final decisions are often made by senior leadership, and it's possible that a position has been eliminated or no longer aligns with the current needs and strategic direction of a particular office or division. As Blair mentioned, there is a process involving a reclassification form, task adjustment, or similar documentation. These materials include the justification for the request and are submitted for review and discussion at the presidential level, where the overall need for the position is evaluated.

VI. Officer Reports

- A. Chair Report – Alex Ames (he/him/his)
 - Cabinet – new email was sent and communication finalizing budget is out. Happy to see progress on that!
- B. Chair-Elect Report – Jenna Schuster
- C. Secretary Report – Lupita Montoya
- D. Treasurer Report – Nikki Sparks
- E. Communications Report – Rachel Rachel
- F. Parliamentarian Report – Christian Bridge
 - Changes in bylaws and working with membership and assessment committee. Discuss more later in meeting
- G. Assessment Coordinator Report – Tsubasa Tajima
- H. Past-Chair Report – Brittany Landau (she/her/hers)

VII. Standing Committee Chair Reports

- A. Committee Reveal
- B. Communications and Public Relations – Donovan Ford
- C. Membership and Assessment – Rowan Hines, Nicole Habern
- D. Staff Success – Cheyenne Moore, Laderica Paul

VIII. University Committee Updates

- A. Call for University Committee Updates
 - Need a volunteer to be a liaison for the Directors Committee. Free lunch! (New Business)
 - DLS has been paused for one calendar year – due to budget cut (New Business)

IX. Old Business

- A. Question regarding process during Election
 - Looking into Bylaws, there is no channel to go into breach of bylaws
 1. Adding a procedure to know how to go about breach of bylaws

2. Recording our meetings, so if there is a breach, we have something to reference to and can then review what had occurred
 3. Encouraging our senators to speak up
 4. How to proceed when someone was out or email was not seen regarding nomination for position
- B. HR Policies (Specifically, Bereavement)
- They are looking at getting our information in line with systems and currently looking at bereavement as one of those. It's in the works and discussions!
- C. Lot in front of Wooten with dangerous gravel
- That has been swept up!
- D. Compliance with striking down of state law regarding undocumented folks and in-state tuition
- Unfortunately, we are not in a position to fight that. We have to comply and cannot go against state law.

X. New Business

- A. Need a volunteer for the Union Board of Directors committee
- Meetings are held monthly from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. with lunch provided. First meeting is on Wednesday, August 20.
- B. The Distinguished Lecture Series has been paused for one calendar year (currently, from Sept 2025 to Aug 2026). There will be a request in early Spring 2026 to fill our two seats. They're planning on redirecting the intent away from pop culture, and more towards academics (Jane Goodall, Don Lemon as examples from past DLS engagements).

XI. Announcements

- Clover's birthday!
- HPS is taking the Kinesiology Dept, two branches overarching two schools; more to come!
- Mayborn School has announced new Dean of Journalism!
- College of science has a new interim Dean
- Tuition freeze was supposed to expire next year but with new legislature has moved that to two years. More to come from budget officers.

XII. Adjournment / Dismissal to Standing Committees

Ended 2:35 pm