

STAFF SENATE MEETING
9/9/2025, Minutes
In Person, Union 332

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. VOTE to Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (8/12/2025)

IV. Guest Speakers

- Blair Wilson, Human Resources
 - Self-evaluations are open. Recommending they get done by 9/12 and mid-month
 - Supervisor cannot submit their review until you get yours completed
 - Once supervisor completes theirs, it goes to the step-up leadership
 - FY26 benefits, deductions will be on 10/1 check for monthly employees and then 10/15 for semi-monthly employees. Be sure to check them or else it can get difficult to make the corrections
- Megan Wheeler, President's Office Liaison
 - Toulouse moving into VP
 - Change done to strengthen services in support of our Graduate students since it is research heavy. With the VPRI – it can streamline services, have more visibility, and flexibility
 - CMHT moving to RCOB
 - CACS is also moving to a new department.
 - No websites should be changed, send to same advisors, and same locations. No programs are changing that will impact your daily work. Just to start the conversation and be aware the new transitions that will be happening
 - State of university and strategic plan by President Keller is November 5th
 - Staff Lunch is coming where President Keller will do a live Q&A – Monday October 6th from 12pm-1pm

V. Constituency Concerns

- Call for New Constituent Concerns
 - Is there one free hour for room reservations for departments? Will be looking into it. If it is more department related, will want to work through the channels in your office to go through with reserving rooms
 - Bereavement – across UNT systems it is not consistent with certain family-relatives (aunts, uncles, etc) being approved and some denied
 - Blair – It was inconsistent and has been brought to OGC to match the policy to everyone else's. No ETA, BUT it is getting fixed! HR will provide updates when received
 - Parking: Lot 50 CRFC parking, has there been an evaluation on how those are being utilized?
 - Unsold A-50 spaces for people who can purchase. Not taking any faculty/staff spaces, just have those listed so that it is equitable
 - Cannot open the garage and move those spaces back until Union Circle Garage is fully open. But once open, those spaces will move
 - Beginning next semester we will also expect new ADA cut-outs, and busses to be stationed! – Can always email transportation.services@unt.edu to ask questions!
 - Hourly employee timekeeping rolling out on the 1st for student employees, but

wasn't open?

- Students that started this semester were automatically put on the web clock. While others were not. There is a transition happening and there isn't an official date when that will fully transition over.
- IF ANY student still has access to the old one, send to Blair to look into. More communications to students, supervisors, any others with that information! Any feedback, please share with them!

VI. Officer Reports

- Chair Report – Alex Ames (he/him/his)
- Chair-Elect Report – Jenna Schuster
- Secretary Report – Lupita Montoya
- Treasurer Report – Nikki Sparks
 - We still have money in our budget and all finances for our office is up-to-date
- Communications Report – Rachel Rachel
 - Monthly senate letter to be coming out by the end of the week!
- Parliamentary Report – Christian Bridge
 - Working on drafts of bylaws for the new senate cycle
- Assessment Coordinator Report – Tsubasa Tajima
 - Senate Attendance Report
 - There has been increase in attendance and involvement since 2022.
- Past-Chair Report – Brittany Landau
 - President's Fellows
 - Customer Service at UNT Initiative

VII. Standing Committee Chair Reports

- Communications and Public Relations – Donovan Ford
- Membership and Assessment – Rowan Hines / Nicole Habern
 - Sept 26th last day for Rowan
- Staff Success – Cheyenne Moore / Laderica Paul
 - Escape room for staff will go live soon!

VIII. University Committee Updates

- Call for University Committee Updates
 - Lucas Grabeel will be here next week on the 16th sponsored by Fine Arts Series
- Athletic Council needs a volunteer - First meeting is on the 15th.
 - Anita will be volunteer @ 11:30am and lunch will be provided
- SGA liaison volunteer – Every Wednesday at 5:30pm
 - Lupita

IX. Old Business

- Guest Speaker: Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges, Vice Provost for International Affairs
 - In 2024, we saw the beginning of decline. There was a 10% drop in professional masters and visas versus 2023. It is happening nationally.
 - Cooling job market has also cooled our applications. All F1 student visas were also paused during peak issuing times. The visa process is already long, but the pause extended that
 - Looking beyond professional master's, PhD, and undergraduate. Also looking at other areas abroad. 9% increase in PhD, 16% increase in undergraduate from areas in India and Nepal. Working on expanding and looking at other areas to recruit
 - Even had visa interview prep in India to help them with their process in applying
 - Annual report, with everything International Affairs has worked on will be published in a few weeks!
- Dining hall to-go boxes; Not an option to keep costs down.
- STAR Performer before 6 months: Not an option, as it's considered administrative

leave in State Statute 661, which limits eligibility to people who have accrued 6 months of employment.

X. New Business

- Guest Speaker: Heidi Elmendorf, Deputy to the President for University Initiatives
 - We need a better understanding how UNT students effectively engage and learn. Need to engage all faculty and staff in accountability for student success
 - President Keller we need to figure out how to drive student success and how to manage the data. Together they have created **3 units**:
 - **Learning Institute**: research-focused on exploring the many dimensions of learning sciences, with the goal of applying research findings to inform curricular and pedagogical practices
 - **Teaching Hub**: Is a collaborative center dedicated to empowering educators and advancing transformative, evidence-based teaching across the university in support of sense of shared responsibility for student success
 - **Curriculum Connector**: Dedicated to aligning curriculum with student academic journeys and career aspirations.
 - They collaborate with faculty and industry partners to ensure students receive a deep grounding in durable educational experiences, as well as career-ready skills, equipping them to thrive in their careers and lives

Announcements

- Business Career Fair September 10th from 2-6pm
- Football game at DATCU – encourage students and staff to attend
- Shout out to our One Stop and all Staff as we worked hard through registration and late registration week!

Adjournment / Dismissal to Standing Committees - Ended 3:31pm

