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August 2026 Meeting Highlights

Guest Speakers

Peter Balabuch, Executive Director, Dining Services

Jeanette Garriga, President's Office Liaison

Why did we have to make changes to the Legacy Faculty and Staff meal plan?

- Rollover primarily affected commuter students and faculty/staff because the plans were originally set up to roll over forever.
- Met with Audit and Compliance, which we found we have ghost liability for these ghost credits/accounts. When the FY flips it is shown as "unearned" revenue which went back to 2013 since 2020. Since then the cost of food has risen 31% so when looking at managing our funds we were asked to slowly filter out this type of set up. Starting with commuter students we gave money back to the state of Texas and refunded some of it.
- Now in 2024 we've begun changing the faculty staff plans and made the decision to stop selling plans that roll over perpetually. We sent information out to people who had these plans and let them know it would end August 7, 2026. We had to make this change and

now faculty staff have the same access as students to the same meal plans. We could no longer carry over unearned revenue. Liability exists with roll-over plans.

- Due to feedback, the swipe deadline for FY26 was extended to August 31st, 2026.

When is the end date for the new plans?

- Swipe plan / 80 or 40 will end in the Spring semester on May 7th.

Other Dining Updates -

- Mean Greens moving to Kerr Hall - Opening in October
- Exciting Updates to Union Retail Dining Options
 - Added a Ramen bar
 - Working through contractual obligations with Qudoba and expect it to open around October.
 - We will also be opening Scrappy's Ice Cream, Voltage Coffee and are partnering with West Oak coffee to renovate the old Starbucks spot.
 - Union Circle Subs has Gyros now

President's Office Updates -

We are working on broader updates to the website and Look North

Clover's paw-fice hours are

- Tuesday, September 1, 2026 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- Tuesday, September 15, 2026 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- Tuesday, September 29, 2026 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- Tuesday, October 20, 2026 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- Tuesday, November 10, 2026 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- Tuesday, November 17, 2026 2:30pm to 3:30pm
- Tuesday, December 1, 2026 2:30pm to 3:30pm

Next President's Sack Lunch

Wednesday, October 28th from 11:30am-1pm, Union 314

A green banner with a dark green background. On the left, a black sign with a white border hangs from a green string, displaying the text "Open OFFICE HOURS" in white. To the right of the sign, the text "Staff Senate Open Hours" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, a quote in a smaller, white, italicized font reads: "A welcoming space to share ideas, ask questions, discuss concerns, and connect with your Staff Senate representatives." Further down, the text "Hurley 115A" and "Dates listed below" are written in a white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, the UNT logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized white bird icon followed by the text "UNT" in a large, bold, white font, and "OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT Staff Senate" in a smaller, white font below it.

Open
OFFICE
HOURS

Staff Senate Open Hours

*A welcoming space to share ideas, ask questions,
discuss concerns, and connect with your Staff
Senate representatives.*

Hurley 115A
Dates listed below

UNT OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT
Staff Senate

Did you know Staff Senate has an office in the Hurley Administration Building (Room

115A)? We're putting it to good use by offering **Staff Senate Open Hours**, a space where staff can stop by, connect one-on-one with a senator, ask questions, share concerns, and provide feedback in a comfortable, neutral setting.

Date	Time	Senator
Tuesday, Sept. 1	10 - 11 AM	Ethan Gillis Division of Enrollment
Wednesday, Sept. 2	11 AM - 12 PM	Philip Aguinaga Parliamentarian, Academic Affairs
Thursday, Sept. 3	12 - 1 PM	Zach Yeager Academic Affairs
Tuesday, Sept. 8	9:30 - 10:30 AM	Zach Yeager Academic Affairs
Friday, Sept. 11	10 AM - 12 PM	Jenna Schuster Senate Chair, Student Affairs
Wednesday, Sept. 16	9 - 10 AM	Zach Yeager Academic Affairs
Thursday, Sept. 17	10 AM - 12 PM	Jenna Schuster Senate Chair, Student Affairs
Monday, Sept. 21	4 - 5 PM	Zach Yeager Academic Affairs
Wednesday, Sept. 23	3 - 5 PM	Philip Aguinaga Parliamentarian, Academic Affairs
Thursday, Sept. 24	10 - 11 AM	Chad Flenar University Advancement
Friday, Sept. 25	10 AM-12 PM	Jenna Schuster Senate Chair, Student Affairs

No appointment needed. Light snacks and resources available. Just stop by and chat with us!

Be Curious



Staff Senate Resources

News

[My.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu)

[North Texas Daily](#)

[UNT News](#)

Professional Development

[Bridge Learning](#)

[Cash Control & Departmental Deposit Training](#)

[Employee Tuition Benefit](#)

[Linkedin Learning](#)

[Microcredentials](#)

[ODA Trainings](#)

[Staff Professional Development Fund](#)

[UNT Connect Intranet](#)

[UNT Values](#)

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: <https://forms.office.com/r/L4B5dGKR9G>

Better Together

Staff Escape Room September 2026

Yes! It's back! Be on the lookout to sign up to participate in the UNT Today over the next few weeks. We don't have the exact times yet but will run from Tuesday – Thursday, September 8th – 24th.

Courageous Integrity



Integrity Champion Award

The colleague who is always checking the policy first. The supervisor who leads by example. The team member who isn't afraid to ask questions when something seems unclear. The person others trust to do the right thing. Who's the first person you thought of?

Whoever they are, they're exactly the type of person the UNT Integrity Champion Award was created to recognize. The award honors faculty and staff who consistently demonstrate integrity, follow policies, seek clarification when faced 24/7.

UNT Trust Line Web Portal: <http://trustline.unt.edu>

with uncertainty, and promote a culture of integrity across campus.

Take a moment to recognize those who make UNT better through their everyday actions. Fill out the [nomination form](#) today!

Those awarded receive recognition in UNT Today and the University Integrity & Compliance website, two \$15 retail dining vouchers, and an exclusive Integrity Champion pin with lanyard.

UNT Trust Line

Whether you're concerned about ethics, safety, fraud, misuse of resources, or another workplace issue, speaking up can make a difference.

You don't need to have all the answers. If something doesn't feel right, it's okay to ask questions and report concerns. The UNT Trust Line is 100% confidential, anonymous, and available

UNT Trust Line Phone Number: 1-877-606-9187

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 Tuesday, September 8th.

Can't make it in person?

Stream the meeting via [Zoom](#)

Can't make the meeting time?
Submit your concern via the [anonymous suggestion box](#).

Want to read the full meeting agendas/minutes?
Visit the [Agendas and Minutes page](#).

[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.

Show Your Fire

Staff Spotlight

Featuring: Lori Barthold, Administrative Coordinator, Undergraduate Programs RCOB



I love working at UNT because it has always been a special place to me. My granddaddy worked here when I was growing up, and I remember coming to campus to visit him at work. Those visits gave me fond memories of UNT long before I became a student here myself. Over the past 20+ years, I've been proud to build my career at a university that has meant so much to my family. Seeing both of my own kids graduate from UNT has made that connection even more meaningful.

It's also nice being close to home, which means less time commuting and more time with my family. UNT offers great benefits, but what really makes it a great place to work are the people. My coworkers feel like an extended family, and that's important when you spend so much of your day together. We all care about helping students succeed and supporting them throughout their time at UNT, and it's rewarding to know that the work we do helps make a difference in their academic journey.

After more than two decades, I'm grateful to still be part of the UNT community and the legacy my family has shared with the university for generations.

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

Important Links

- [Vacation Leave](#)
- [Holiday Calendar](#)
- [Longevity Pay](#)
- [HR Well-Being Calendar](#)



OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT
Staff Senate

Your voice. Our mission.

