

Minutes

UWF Staff Senate

Meeting

via in-person and Google Meet

University of West Florida

August 11, 2026

The meeting of the UWF Staff Senate was called to order at 1:30 pm by Staff Senate President Ethan Henley.

Attendance was taken by sign-in of Senators, guests and online participants via Google Meet. The following Senators were present:

Jen Andrews, Olivia Ashcraft, Chip Chism, Marisa Elmore, Zachary Farrington, Jenny Feysa, Ann Gilbar, Ethan Henley, Abbie Hopper, Brooke Karas, Sarah Madaris, Alex Miller, Keyaundra Mobley, Angei Morris, Billy Nelson, Zackary Newman, Angie Quenan, Carly Richards, Pam Scapin, Sandra Taylor, Megan Veach.

Proxy Attendance: N/A.

Absent: Ivan Zarate Rosas.

Guests: Jamie Sprague – Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Eric Kollar – Director, Office of the Provost; Tommy Maher – Data Analyst, Human Resources; Carl Shouppe – Foreign National Liaison, Human Resources; Hannah Strange – Student Support Specialist, Student Accessibility Resources; Amber Borden- Senior Coordinator, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

1. Administrative Reports

- a. President Diaz was unable to attend in-person but provided Staff Senate with written remarks (letter attached).
- b. HR Updates – Jamie Sprague –
 - a. August 15th – Outside Activity Form due
 - b. Jamie introduced a couple new faces in HR: Tommy Maher – Data Analyst and Carl Shouppe - Foreign National Liaison
 - c. Benefits Fair - Monday, September 28th
 - d. Open enrollment: Oct 12th-30th
 - e. Jamie worked with ITS and updated the anti-harassment training; modules have been updated and time to complete the training is now shorter.
 - f. Currently working on updating at-risk training

2. Guest Speaker

- a. N/A

3. Approval of Minutes and Treasury Report

- a. Motion to approve June minutes: Pam Scapin.
- b. Second: Sandra Taylor.
- c. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Brooke Karas, Staff Senate Treasurer, - provided an update – the budget has not been received yet for the fiscal year; but anticipate the usual funding to help sponsor ERAP and also E&G funding; last year we spent \$1,024.19 from the Bookstore Scholarship account with a current balance of \$1,110.19. Staff Senate Emergency Fund – did not spend from that account last year and current balance is \$38,210.22.

4. Supervisor of Elections

- a. Sandra Taylor, Supervisor of Elections – No updates.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Emergency Fund Committee–No updates.
- b. ERAP- Sandra Taylor – meeting set with Anamarie next week to collaborate with their new department; the idea is to have a lot of events in the Field House in one week in April.
- c. Hand to Paw- Senator, Alex Miller, provided an update - the on-campus event will be held on 10/8 on the Cannon Green and hoping to have the Humane Society on campus.
- d. Holidayfest–No updates; more information to come.
- e. Textbook Scholarship Committee: Senator-At-Large, Chip Chism, - will place announcement in Fac./Staff newsletter after drop/add.

6. New Business

- a. Chip Chism- Staff Senate engagement - looking to hold a tabling event 1x semester; also looking to profile Senators a few times during the semester to help get our name out there. Staff Senate will be tailgating at the Homecoming game on 10/17.
- b. Olivia Ashcraft – Argo Arrival: 8/14; 8/13 move-in for FTICs; volunteers needed.

7. Old Business

- a. N/A.

8. Open Forum

- a. Staff Senate President, Ethan Henley, shared a presentation and reviewed the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of Staff Senate.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Quenan – Secretary

Staff Senate Executive Board

President- Ethan Henley

Vice President – Zachary Farrington

Supervisor of Elections- Sandra Taylor

Secretary- Angie Quenan

Treasurer- Brooke Karas

Senator at Large- Chip Chism

Communications- Olivia Ashcraft



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Staff Senate -

I wish I could be with you today, but unfortunately, I'm unable to join you for this meeting. I did want to take a few minutes to share a few updates and, most importantly, to thank you for all that you do for UWF.

I hope everyone had a great summer and had a chance to enjoy some well-deserved time away. It's hard to believe we're already getting ready to welcome our students back to campus with the first day of classes next Monday.

As we begin another academic year, I want you to know how much I appreciate the work you do every day to keep this University moving forward. Your dedication to our students, our campus, and one another is an important part of what makes UWF such a special place. Thank you for your continued commitment and for everything you do to make this University a great place to work.

I'd like to share a few updates with you.

Campus Construction Projects

We have several exciting projects moving forward across campus.

- **Stadium:** The new LED video board is up and running. I'm sure many of you have also heard the sound system being tested over the past couple of weeks. It's exciting to see the progress, and the project remains on target for opening in Fall 2027.
- **Synapse Building:** Construction is underway, making another exciting step forward in expanding opportunities for our students and strengthening our campus.
- **Commons Patio:** Work on the backside of the Commons is nearing completion and will tie into the new Commons patio. This will be a great addition to the campus and provide another space for our students and campus community to gather.

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NCAA Division I Transition

This is an exciting time for UWF, and our transition to DI represents another opportunity to raise the profile of our university and showcase what makes the Argos special. I encourage you to come out, support our teams, and be part of this important moment in UWF athletics.

August 20

- Woman's Soccer vs Alabama A&M at 5 pm
- Men's Soccer vs Texas Rio Grande at 7:30 pm

August 27

- UWF Football vs Southern Illinois at 6 pm
- Football Tailgate is from 4-6 pm
- The University will close at 1 pm on that day

Upcoming staff events:

We also have some fun staff events coming up, including our annual Ice Cream Social and HolidayFest. These events are a great opportunity to come together, build community, and celebrate the people who make UWF such a special place. More information will be shared as we get closer to those events.

Again, thank you for everything you do for our students, our university, and one another. I'm grateful for your continued commitment to UWF, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together this year.

Go Argo's!

Manny Diaz Jr