

Minutes

UWF Staff Senate

Meeting

via in-person and Google Meet

University of West Florida

February 10, 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 and online participants via Google Meet. The following Senators were present:

Olivia Ashcraft, Chip Chism, Nadya Collins, Sierra Ebert, Marisa Elmore, Zachary Farrington, Stephanie Fenner, Ann Gilbar, Ethan Henley, Brooke Karas, Mikey LeFevre, Sarah Madaris, Alex Miller, Keyaundra Mobley, Billy Nelson, Monti Stone, Sandra Taylor, Megan Veach, Pam Weeks, Ivan Zarate Rosas.

Proxy Attendance: Zackary Newman.

Absent: Angie Quenan.

Guests: Manny Diaz - University President; Dr. Clifford Humphrey – Chief of Staff; Dr. Angela Bryan – Assistant Vice President, Planning and Institutional Performance; Jennifer Andrews.

Administrative Reports

1. Executive Report – Manny Diaz, University President.

- a. Ethan introduced President Diaz and congratulated him on becoming the official UWF President. President Diaz described the new accrediting agency and presented updates on several ongoing projects. The Cannon Green is being improved. There will be new irrigation outlets, new landscaping, and improved lighting.
- b. UWF will be initiating a rebranding process. Several options will be presented to focus groups. Athletics will rebrand with the launch of the new stadium. Joining Division 1 is being discussed, but a decision is not imminent.
- c. A new Science Building will be built near bldg 4.
- d. President Diaz and Alex Smith recently returned from a lobbying mission in both D.C. and Tallahassee. UWF has some infrastructure needs which can be met by additional funding.

- e. A new Police Chief, Roman Jackson, joined UWF in January.
- f. The stadium Groundbreaking is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th.
- g. Argo Blvd is still being planned
- h. No school has officially been picked as The Charter School but plans are being developed and evaluated. One permutation is to allow Students, Faculty, and Staff to apply for a slot for their children first.
- i. Sandra Taylor asked what would happen if the UWF student graduates or the employee leaves the University. President Diaz the student would not lose their seat in the school.
- j. Meghan Veach asked for a timeline on the school. President Diaz said it should start in the Fall of 2026.

2. Guest Speaker – Dr. Angela Bryan

- a. Angela Bryan updated the Senate on the accreditation process. The new accrediting group will be the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The previous accrediting agency was called Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). SACSCOC was approved for 10 years on 1/5/26. HLC has approved UWF's application.

3. Approval of Minutes and Treasury Report

- a. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Megan Veach and seconded by Sierra Ebert. Motion approved unanimously. There are no treasury reports or updates.

4. Supervisor of Elections

- a. Sandra Taylor reported that several Senators are due to rotate off. Those eligible will be given the option to renew. A term is 2 years with a 2 year renewal. After the completion of two consecutive terms a Senator may potentially rejoin Senate after sitting out for a year and if vacancy exists. Senators will be notified if their terms are ending.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Emergency Fund Committee–No Update
- b. ERAP- The ERAP program has moved from The Conference Center to Field House. Will need volunteers to help facilitate. RSVP requests will go out soon.
- c. Hand To Paw- Alex Miller and Sarah Reid will be staffing the committee. Promotion will start in October.
- d. Holidayfest–No update
- e. Textbook Scholarship Committee: Stephanie Fenner and Mikey LeFevre worked to process all the scholarship applications. A total of \$339.87 was awarded to recipients.

6. New Business

- a. None.

7. Old Business

- a. Staff Senate Engagement and Promotion– Chip Chism, Angie Quenan, Sandra Taylor, and Ivan Zarate Rosas held a tabling session in The Commons on February 4th. Of the 14 engagements with staff 5 knew their Senator’s name and 9 did not.

8. Open Forum

- a. Sandra Taylor asked those Senators who are rotating off to look for replacements should they not want to renew.
- b. Ethan updated the Senate on The United Way Campaign. The goal was \$18,000 and UWF raised \$20,747. Many of these donations were made by payroll deduction which means the money will be paid out in installments.
- c. Chip Chism and Megan Veach discussed the LEAD Program’s Argo Pantry Donation Plan. Employees will be able to donate \$1 every pay period to the Argo Pantry.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 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