

Minutes

UWF Staff Senate

Meeting

via in-person and Google Meet

University of West Florida

June 9, 2026

The meeting of the UWF Staff Senate was called to order at 1:30 pm by Staff Senate Vice President Zachary Farrington.

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, Zachary Farrington, Stephanie Fenner, Ann Gilbar, Brooke Karas, Mikey LeFevre, Sarah Madaris, Alex Miller, Keyaundra Mobley, Billy Nelson, Angie Quenan, Sandra Taylor, Megan Veach, Pam Scapin, Ivan Zarate Rosas.

Proxy Attendance: N/A.

Absent: Ethan Henley; Monti Stone

Guests: Jamie Sprague – Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Eric Kollar – Director, Office of the Provost; Jen Andrews – Senior Administrative Specialist, Continuing Education; Jenny Feysa- Director of Advising, School of Education; Angei Morris – Housing Administration Specialist, Housing and Residence Life; Carly Richards – Sr. Graphic Designer, University Marketing and Communications; Hannah Strange – Student Support Specialist, Student Accessibility Resources; Mary Knight – Sr. Administrative Specialist, Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business; Zackary Newman – Coordinator, University Admissions; Jennifer Powell - Administrative Specialist, School of Nursing; Amber Borden- Senior Coordinator, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

1. Administrative Reports

- a. Email from President Diaz – Expressed his thanks and sincere appreciation to everyone for their continued hard work and dedication particularly as we approach the close of the fiscal year. Recognized this is a demanding time of many teams and offices balancing critical deadlines, increased workloads, and year-end responsibilities; grateful for the professionalism, commitment, and collaborative spirit that staff members demonstrate each day; these efforts play a vital role in supporting the University mission and ensuring a successful conclusion to this fiscal year.

- b. HR Updates – Jamie Sprague –
 - i. April Harvey is the new Associate Director for Benefits; reminder for employees that submit leave reports to submit in a timely manner.
 - ii. July 1st – University Workforce 2025-2026 Performance Evaluations open & the 2026 Outside Activity Form opens.

2. Guest Speaker

- a. N/A

3. Approval of Minutes and Treasury Report

- a. Motion to approve May minutes: Megan Veach
- b. Second: Sandra Taylor.
- c. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Brooke Karas, Staff Senate Treasurer, - there are no updates to the Treasury Report.

4. Supervisor of Elections

- a. Sandra Taylor, Supervisor of Elections –
- b. Mikey LeFevre's term is ending and is being replaced by Jen Andrews - Jen joined the University of West Florida in January 2025 and serves as the Senior Administrative Specialist in Continuing Education. In addition to her role in Continuing Education, she provides support to the Academic Affairs Budget Office. During her time at UWF, Jen has enjoyed learning about the university and being part of a community dedicated to student and institutional success. Jen and her husband, Justin, live in Pace with their son, Emmett, and their dog, Cannon. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, camping, and reading. Jen is excited to serve on Staff Senate and looks forward to building connections with colleagues across campus, gaining a broader understanding of the university, and contributing to efforts that support staff and strengthen the UWF community.
 - a. Motion to approve the nomination – Megan Veach
 - b. Second: Zachary Farrington
- c. Jenny Feysa will be replacing Stephanie Fenner. Jenny currently serves as the Director of Advising for the School of Education Advising Center. With more than 23.5 years of experience at the University of West Florida, she has served the campus community in numerous capacities, including as an academic advisor, communications coordinator, and office manager. Throughout her tenure, Jenny has focused on enhancing student success, streamlining institutional processes, and championing technological accessibility. Her extensive campus service includes previously serving as Chair of the campus-wide Academic Advising Training/Professional Development Workgroup, active membership in the Electronic & Information Technology Accessibility Advisory Group, and past participation in the 2016-17 LEAD (Staff Version) program. A dedicated advocate for the university community, Jenny is a two-time recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award, earning the honor from both the College of Education & Professional Studies in 2021-22 and the School of Education in 2024-2025. She serves as the current President of the Emerald Coast Academic Advising Network and regularly presents at professional conferences. Outside of her professional life, Jenny loves spending quality time with her family, learning about very old things, watching movies, playing games, relaxing at the beach, and doting on her mischievous cat, Loki. Jenny is eager to bring her

comprehensive knowledge of university operations and her passion for staff advocacy to the Staff Senate.

- a. Motion to approve the nomination – Chip Chism
 - b. Second: Megan Veach
- d. Abbie Hopper will be replacing Sierra Ebert - Abbie is the Annual Giving and Young Donor Coordinator in University Advancement. She is from Mobile, Alabama. Abbie graduated from UWF with her undergrad in 2023 and received a Masters in Higher Education from the University of Arizona in 2025. Abbie has been back at UWF for one year as of June 1! Her hobbies include seeing live music, camping, and hanging out with her two cocker spaniels. Abbie is excited for this opportunity!
 - a. Motion to approve the nomination – Sierra Ebert
 - b. Second: Nadya Collins
- e. Angei Morris will be replacing Nadya Collins - Angei is a dedicated team member of Housing and Residence Life, where she serves as the Housing Administrative Specialist. Having worked in banking for 25 years, Angei decided on a career change and for the past two years, Angei is the face for Housing where she provides student experiences with professionalism and care. A Pensacola native deeply rooted in her community, Angei was awarded Ambassador of the Year in 2022 on behalf of the Greater Pensacola Chamber and is a proud 2025 Leadership Pensacola (LEAP) alumna and is currently a second term board member for the Escambia County Public School Foundation where she supports local initiatives like Take Stock in Children and by volunteering with nonprofit organizations in the community. Angei loves gardening, thrifting and traveling but her main loves are her husband and two sons. Angei is looking forward to celebrating her 30th anniversary in September and becoming a first-time grandmother in October! She is honored to join the Staff Senate and considers this role as an introduction for becoming an integral part of the campus community.
 - a. Motion to approve the nomination – Nadya Collins
 - b. Second: Ivan Zarate Rosas
- f. Zackary Newman will be replacing Brett Haskell - Zachary is the lead for the University's new student orientation programming and originally arrived at UWF in 2015 from the Tampa area as a student. He is a proud double-alumnus of UWF, earning bachelor's degrees in Political Science and International Studies in 2020, followed by a Master's degree in Education in 2024. Zachary's professional path in higher education started in 2020 as a traveling Leadership Consultant for his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Mu, based in Indianapolis, IN. In late 2021, he returned to UWF to serve in his current position. Zackary is incredibly grateful for the professional and personal growth he has experienced here, and it is a privilege to work with a group of colleagues truly dedicated to student success. Beyond his professional duties, he continues to volunteer with his fraternity on the Educational Development Committee and recently completed a term on its Board of Directors. Zachary is an avid traveler with a personal goal of visiting every state (25 so far) and every continent. When he is not exploring new destinations, Zachary enjoys watching movies (especially Star Wars), exploring around the Pensacola area, visiting family in Tampa, or taking trips to Walt Disney World. At home, he enjoys the company of Edgar (black cat) and Langston (orange cat).
 - a. Motion to approve the nomination – Angie Quenan
 - b. Second: Megan Veach
- g. Carly Richards will replace Monti Stone – Carly serves as the Senior Graphic Designer for University Marketing and Communications. In this role, she helps monitor and

maintain the University's visual identity through the development of projects for print, web, and interactive digital applications. Carly recently became a UWF alumna, earning her MSA in Public Administration in Summer 2025. In her leisure time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and their rescue animals, as well as reading.

- a. Motion to approve the nomination – Zachary Farrington
- b. Second: Sierra Ebert
- h. Passed unanimously.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Emergency Fund Committee–No updates.
- b. ERAP- Nothing to report.
- c. Hand to Paw- Senator, Sarah Reid, shared the committee is scheduled to meet next Monday.
- d. Holidayfest–No updates.
- e. Textbook Scholarship Committee: Senator-At-Large, Chip Chism, - we had two applicants for summer and they have been awarded.

6. New Business

- a. The July Staff Senate meeting will be cancelled and we will reconvene in August.

7. Old Business

- a. N/A.

8. Open Forum

- a. Senator, Ivan Zarate Rosas, had a constituent reach out about the possibility if the UWF east entrance for outbound traffic leaving campus could be modified. Chip shared it has been looked at multiple times; the problem is peak hour/peak time traffic leaving campus and significantly more traffic traveling to/from Santa Rosa County. FDOT will give priority to that. Some talk of making dual lefts out of campus but that creates the problem of modifying the signal. It is something that has been looked at.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 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