

Minutes

UWF Staff Senate

Meeting

via Google Meet

University of West Florida

March 11, 2025

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:

Patricia Barlow, Tori Bennett, Chip Chism, Nadya Collins, Sierra Ebert, Marisa Elmore, Zachary Farrington, Stephanie Fenner, Ann Gilbar, Brett Haskell, Ethan Henley, Brooke Karas, Mikey LeFevre, Sarah Madaris, Jenny Makselan, Angie Quenan, Heather Seitz, Monti Stone, Sandra Taylor, Megan Veach, Blythe Webster, Pam Weeks.

Proxy Attendance: N/A

Absent: N/A

Guests: Dr. Martha Saunders, University President; Keyaundra Mobley; Stephanie Yancey.

Administrative Reports

1. Executive Report – Dr. Martha Saunders – University President.

1. The Legislature is in session and a lot is happening.
2. One Bill that is moving through the Legislature involves the Florida Institute of Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC). The IHMC has looked to restructure its 501(c) 3 status that would take them out of our oversight. Trying to align their organizational structure.
3. Grateful for a community that cares about the University. We are in a fluid environment with a lot of dynamics happening in Tallahassee. A lot of unknowns but we will continue to watch and make a plan like we always do.
4. The Florida Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) - at this point we don't know exactly what they're looking at. Apparently, there will be a task force that will be requesting data from us. Currently, we do not know what we will be asked for. We have been working on efficiency measures which are one of our strategic directions and are not worried. We will watch and wait and make adjustments as we need to.
5. Can expect a lean year (flat year budget wise).

2. Approval of Minutes and Treasury Report

Motion to approve February Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Sierra Ebert

Second by: Brett Haskell

Passed unanimously.

Staff Senate Treasurer, Brooke Karas, shared we have spent \$252.95 on letterhead from our E&G account and from our Textbook Scholarship we have awarded \$577.49. Everything else is unchanged.

Motion to approve the Treasury Report as presented: Tori Benett.

Second: Sierra Ebert.

Passed unanimously.

3. Supervisor of Elections

- Sandra Taylor announced emails will be sent out this month to Senators to see if they are interested in staying on or rolling off Staff Senate. It is a 2-year term. Next month we will present the E-Board Slate. Currently, one position is available. If anyone is interested in being on E-Board, please reach out.
- Reminder of an overall timeline: E-Board Slate will be presented next month with approval of elections in May. New or returning Staff Senator nominations will also be held in May with elections in June.

4. Committee Reports

- Employee Emergency Fund Committee – Staff Senate Treasurer, Brooke Karas, shared there are no new updates.
- ERAP – Sierra Ebert – we are less than a month away from the event on April 3rd. Everything is moving right along and getting things ready. Staff Senators are highly encouraged to attend the ceremony. Currently, 279 RSVPs received to attend the ceremony in person.
- Hand to Paw – Blythe Webster –nothing to report.
- Holidayfest – Ethan Henley – nothing to report.
- Textbook Scholarship Committee – Sierra Ebert – 7 awardees were selected for the spring semester.

5. New Business

- a. Guest: Stephanie Yancey – Argo Pantry Food Fight: Founders Week begins on Saturday, April 12th – Friday, April 18th. This is the third year for the Argo Pantry

Food Fight. It is a competition between faculty vs. staff vs. students to see which team can collect the most donations for the Argo Pantry.

6. Old Business

7. Open Forum

- a. Senator at Large, Sierra Ebert, shared that Day of Giving is April 17th. Sierra also mentioned the Faculty/Staff combo closes on Friday where Faculty/Staff are eligible to receive an exclusive shirt and their Day of Giving socks early.
- b. Sierra also did two truths and a lie for Marisa Elmore, Blythe Webster and Heather Seitz.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 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- Sierra Ebert

Communications- Marisa Elmore