

LSU | Staff Senate

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2025

President Quinneka McDonald presided over the July 16, 2025; Staff Senate meeting held in the Event Room on the Second Floor of the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at LSU at 10:30 a.m.

Unclassified

Executive/Administrative/Managerial

P – Millican, Tammy ('27)

Professional/Non-Faculty

P - Blanchard, Debbie ('27)

P - Bonner, Amber ('26)

P - Breaux, Kevin ('28)

P - Carney, Mo ('27)

P - Champney, Roberto ('28)

Pr - Cristina, Jennifer ('26)

P - Drake, Dalmer ('26)

Pr - Faulkner, Carli ('27)

P - Franks, Stephenie ('28)

P - Garcia, Alexandra

P - Gresham, Deanna ('27)

Pr - Guttner, Ginger ('28)

P - Hope, Olivia ('26)

Pr - Kennison, Jennifer ('28)

P - Madison, Vickie ('28)

P - McDonald, Quinneka ('27)

P - Miller, Cassaundra ('26)

A - Mimms, Anissa ('26)

A - Muller, Casey ('26)

P - Nassif, Haley ('26)

P - Oster, Anthony ('27)

P - Owens, Jace ('26)

P - Popov, Jennifer ('26)

Pr - Rust, Brooke ('28)

P - Smith, Henri ('27)

P - Waters, Bradley ('26)

P - White, Laquita ('28)

P - Whittington, Paige ('26)

P – Williams, Allison ('28)

A - Williams, Amberlon ('26)

A - Wilson, Derek ('27)

Classified

Technical/Paraprofessional

P - Matkovic, Igor ('26)

Clerical/Secretarial

P - Butler, Whitney ('28)

A - Jensen, Jerri ('26)

P - Probst, Steven ('27)

P - Smith, Celeste ('26)

Service/Maintenance

P - Robertson, Winkeyssa ('27)

P - Indicates Present

Pr - Indicates Proxy

A - Indicates Absent

A/P - indicates Absence not Counted

GUESTS:

Lynn Livingston, Residential Life
Xavi Boes, Residential Life
Michael Dobrin, Residential Life
Jeannie Hopper, Residential Life
Meridia Sanders, Enrollment Management
Brian Ainsworth, Campus Federal Credit Union

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Quinneka McDonald at 10:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum with five proxies noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Treasurer Heni Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 18, 2025, Staff Senate Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Past President Olivia Hope. The motion, seconded by Senator Deanna Gresham, carried.

GUEST SPEAKER – LYNN LIVINGSTON, RESIDENTIAL LIFE

President Quinneka McDonald introduced Lynn Livingston, Assistance Director of Quality Control & Assessment for Residential Life. Lynn is a former Staff Senate President serving from 2013-2014.

Lynn Livingston thanked the Staff Senate for the opportunity to speak today about Move In Day at LSU.

Move In Weekend is scheduled on August 15 – August 17. This effort requires over 1500 volunteer hours to make this event a seamless transition for incoming freshmen and their families. A lot goes into getting cars from checking in on River Road to their respective buildings and within 45 minutes.

The Staff Senate has had a strong presence in the past with this effort. Lynn would like to see if we could continue that relationship and ask Senators to volunteer. A short video was presented to show the experience and need for Move In Weekend. They will need help with greeter and dispatch roles. The traffic role is covered by 250 Residential Advisors at LSU.

The volunteer shifts run for about 2.5 to 3 hours depending on the time of day. There is currently a greater need for dispatch help. On Friday, August 15, at the end of the day, there are some dispatch roles available as well as on Sunday, August 17. The deadline to sign up is August 1, with a required to attend volunteer training on August 11, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Union Theatre.

Immediately following training, volunteers can pick up their swag (promotional items) at the Old President's House.

Every day of move in, there will be a different volunteer dress code so everyone can be easily identified. A QR Code was shared to sign up.

The floor was open for questions.

President McDonald thanked Lynn Livingston for attending today's meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

"I came to LSU a shell of a person, I had come from a toxic and traumatic work environment and LSU was my last chance institution. Meaning if it isn't right I am out. When I first joined the Staff Senate I sought out Past President Rachel Henry via email and asked how to get involved. She recommended volunteering at Holiday on Campus. It was the most rewarding experience I had at LSU. At that point, I was working at LSU for six months. When elections rolled around, I applied to be a senator and was selected. The June meeting was held in Bill Lawton Room, the space packed and I saw the passing of the gavel to the incoming President and the energy and excitement was astonishing.

That July meeting I hit my year mark. I attended that meeting and I heard the sentiments regarding someone in the incoming new senators' group from the Past President. This person is going to be a rock star. That pissed me off, because I think anyone has opportunities to succeed in this room as a senator. So, I took that statement as a challenge and said Bet. I volunteered, became a Chair and in the moment of trying to prove outwardly I healed myself. I found my voice and a place where I felt heard.

I share this for a few reasons, when the average staff tenure at LSU is just 2.4 years, it signals underlying issues that need to be addressed with honesty and urgency. While some turnover is natural, especially at a large institution, this level likely points to deeper patterns/issues. The energy in the Staff Senate has changed over the years, it's been a disconnect and less Senators are voicing concerns or making motions.

I need you present in this space and active participants. The Executive Committee shouldn't always be talking. You are our eyes and ears. Show up, speak up and engage. Third, you are in this room/role because you were selected and appointed to make a difference and I for one can't imagine being in this role and not leaning on you all to drive initiatives and make an impact.

Every goal we've set this year is grounded in the feedback we've heard from you and the strategic plan we've built together. In response to that feedback, we've created a new Onboarding & Senator Experience Committee to ensure senators are fully prepared to represent you well. We're also expanding with new committees focused on staff wellbeing, elections, and growing our efforts in volunteering, fundraising, and inclusive engagement.

One of our boldest goals this year is to launch a Staff Emergency Fund—a new initiative designed to support staff during unexpected moments of crisis. We're also developing a Staff Wellness Institute and continuing important conversations around staff fees, crisis leave, and access to professional development.

It's an honor to serve you as the Staff Senate President. Over the next few months, I am passionate about learning more about you all and connecting with our hard-working staff members across the University. Staff are integral to the university's success in serving students, supporting faculty research, and improving the welfare of Louisiana across the state. We do build teams that win."

Lastly, hear it from me, you are a rock star now and what you do from here depends on you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Quinnea McDonald reviewed relevant meetings in which she attended.

President McDonald and President-Elect Tammy Millican attended a meeting with Human Resource Management representatives to discuss our partnership and collaborative efforts. We plan to meet with them quarterly to help with these efforts.

President McDonald attended the University Planning Council Meeting. Continuing Pelican Promise and Scholarship First was discussed. Also, Legislation with regards to funding was discussed. McDonald announced Staff Senate's School Supply initiative.

The Executive Committee met on July 11, to prepare for the July General Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Senator Appointments

The Staff Senate Executive Committee has approved the following appointments.

Keith Thompson who works in Kinesiology, was the last runner-up from the general election and is interested in getting involved in the Staff Senate. He has been employed at LSU since 2024. He is filling a vacancy in the Professional/Non-Faculty (Unclassified) Category through 2027.

Xavi Boes who works in Residential Life, is interested in getting involved on the Staff Senate. He has been employed at LSU since 2023. He is filling a vacancy in the Professional/Non-Faculty (Unclassified) Category through 2027 due to Willie Louviere's resignation.

Committee/Liaison Assignments

President McDonald announced that the Executive Committee has approved a survey to be distributed to the full Senate for interests and committee choices. Once the survey is completed, the committee membership will be outlined for the year.

President-Elect Tammy Millican has been asked to lead the Long Range Review and Planning to help with the Bylaw revisions that are needed. We hope to call attention to Senator responsibilities with regards to attendance and participation. The sign-up will include additional information such as birthdates, Pledge of Allegiance vote, and preferences. The survey will be released towards the end of this week with a deadline to be completed within a week or so.

There will be no Communications and Marketing Committee this year. Senators Ginger Guttner will take care of our communications needs and Casey Muller will help with marketing.

The Executive Committee would like to invite Senators who are interested in chairing/co-chairing roles to the August Executive Committee meeting to discuss charges and initiatives for the year.

The Executive Committee would also like the full Senate to utilize Teams, so everything is in a centralized location, and we don't overwhelm everyone's email accounts.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Executive Committee decided not to participate in Fall Fest this year as it is geared more towards students. Everyone was encouraged to volunteer through Campus Life with that effort.

We will need Senator help with assembly and distribution of School Supplies. A sign-up will be distributed to the full senate for participation.

If anyone would like a School Supply Collection Box for their building, please let the Staff Senate office know, so we can have one delivered.

A separate sign-up will be provided for help with organizing the "Geaux Graduate" Regalia Closet.

Staff Senate Budget/Gift Fund

Treasurer Henri Smith provided a written financial report for July that was included in the meeting packet for Senate review. The remaining Staff Senate's budget was used to buy some items needed such as a table, balloon columns, a water handwash station along with a few other items.

Treasurer Henri Smith also mentioned the Staff Senate Gift Fund guidelines and criteria that is used to recognize Senator's life events that may happen throughout the year. Senators were asked to contribute \$20 each to the fund for the year. Venmo and Cash App options are available, if needed.

An annual event budget is being drafted to send to upper administration for support for the entire year.

Staff Senate Apparel

Melanie Milton announced that the Staff Senate will open orders online for Staff Senate apparel through the Red Stick Sports Website. There will be some different choices available again this year. Items can be shipped directly to those who place an order. The link to place orders will be sent out soon.

Future Guest Speakers

Some Administrators have been identified to invite to guest speak at a future meeting as well as representatives with Visit BR, If anyone has any suggestions, please send those to the Executive Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Meeting

The August meeting will be held in the Event Room on the second floor of Barnes & Noble at LSU on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

Staff Senator Birthday

Staff Senator July Birthdays:

- Member-at-Large Mo Carney celebrated his birthday on July 6.
- Senator Brooke Rust will celebrate her birthday on July 24.
- Senator Debbie Blanchard will celebrate her birthday on July 28.
- Senator Ginger Guttner will celebrate her birthday on July 30.

Happy Birthday!

Staff Food Pantry

Senator Debbie Blanchard announced that she is helping coordinate some space at the Veterinary School to house a food pantry locker for staff. She asked how to receive donations.

President-Elect Tammy Millican announced that an email can be shared to help receive donations. She mentioned that we don't want people to think that it is just for a certain number of people. The closet set-up at Facilities will also include toiletries. Tammy will share a flyer to help with that effort.

We hope that these Pocket Pantries can be set-up around campus.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – With there being no more business, President-Elect Tammy Millican made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Treasurer Henri Smith, carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Bradley Waters, Secretary

BW/mm