

# LSU | Staff Senate

## MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2025

President Olivia Hope presided over the June 18, 2025; Staff Senate meeting held in Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux Restaurant at 3838 Burbank Drive, Baton Rouge, LA at 10:30 a.m.

### Unclassified

#### Executive/Administrative/Managerial

P - Tammy Millican ('27)

#### Professional/Non-Faculty

Pr - Blanchard, Debbie ('27)

P - Bonner, Amber ('26)

P - Breaux, Kevin ('25)

P - Carney, Mo ('27)

P - Cristina, Jennifer ('26)

P - Drake, Dalmer ('26)

P - Duplechain, Joshua ('25)

A - Faulkner, Carli ('27)

P - Franks, Stephenie ('25)

P - Gresham, Deanna ('27)

P - Guttner, Ginger ('25)

P - Hope, Olivia ('26)

A - Kennison, Jennifer ('25)

A - Louviere, Willie ('27)

A - Martin-Whitaker, Neely ('25)

P - McDonald, Quinneke ('27)

A - Miller, Cassaundra ('25)

A - Mimms, Anissa ('26)

P - Muller, Casey ('26)

P - Nassif, Haley ('26)

Pr - Oster, Anthony ('24)

A - Owens, Jace ('26)

A - Popov, Jennifer ('26)

A - Simpson, Katilyn ('25)

P - Smith, Henri ('27)

P - Waters, Bradley ('26)

P - White, Dayton ('25)

A - Whittington, Paige ('26)

A - Williams, Amberlon ('25)

A - Wilson, Derek ('27)

### Classified

#### Skilled Crafts

A - Constance, Taylor ('25)

#### Technical/Paraprofessional

A - Matkovic, Igor ('26)

#### Clerical/Secretarial

P - Butler, Whitney ('25)

A - Jensen, Jerri ('26)

A - Probst, Steven ('27)

P - Smith, Celeste ('26)

#### Service/Maintenance

A - Robertson, Winkeyssa ('27)

P - Indicates Present

Pr - Indicates Proxy

A - Indicates Absent

A/P - indicates Absence not Counted

## **GUESTS:**

Vickie Madison, Enrollment Management & Student Services  
Allison Williams, College of Art & Design  
Brooke Rust, School of Veterinary Medicine  
Alexandra Garcia, Center for Academic Success  
Laquita White, Residential Life  
Elliot Phelps, President Olivia Hope's Son  
Frank Hope, President Olivia Hope's Husband

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Olivia Hope at 10:30 a.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

There was a quorum with two proxies noted.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Senator Celeste Smith and Treasurer Henri Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 21, 2025, Staff Senate Meeting**

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Member-at-Large Tammy Millican. The motion, seconded by President-Elect Quinneke McDonald, carried.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

"When I assumed this role a year ago, wearing this same exact shirt, I knew it was going to be a year of adventure. A year where I'd have the responsibility and privilege of representing our staff in a capacity I would've never imagined and a year where I'd gain more gray hair. 365 days later, I can confirm I was right about all of it.

This year we didn't accomplish everything on my list... which Frank and Elliot would tell all of you is 100% my MO (method of operating). I never finish my list because I always have way more on the list than I could ever reasonably get done, whether it's a single day or 365 of them... there will always be more on my list. But what we did get done, I couldn't be more proud of.

We continued to establish our value at the table through meetings with former President Tate, former Provost Haggerty, and participation in the University Council meetings, APIC (Administrative Process Improvement Committee) committee meetings, Campus Safety meetings and the BOS (Board of Supervisors) meetings. We were informed of key decisions and changes prior to the rest of campus, allowing us the opportunity to ask questions and prepare adequate responses for campus questions.

This pattern of inclusion has continued right into this past week when the Exec (Executive Committee) and I met with Provost Blanchard, and Quinnea, Tammy and I met with President Lee. I know I speak for all of us on Exec when I say we could not be more excited or hopeful about what these changes in leadership mean for staff and our ability on Staff Senate to represent and advocate for staff across the institution. We are in full agreement with our administration that we want LSU to be the best place to work in Louisiana. And I believe we have the foundation of leadership on Staff Senate, and support from Administration to make that a reality.

I had the responsibility of advocating for our staff behind the scenes in ways I was wholly unprepared for. But my commitment to integrity and doing what is right by both the staff and the institution meant I had some conversations I never dreamed I'd have and continued to advocate for staff when nobody appeared to be listening. While this is one I can't share details on, I have full confidence that the resolution we appear to finally be getting will be in the best interest of both our staff and the institution. That win alone was worth all the work.

We also checked off a bunch of things from my to do list. Award career excellence and enrichment funds. Check. A way to accept payment through the foundation so we can fundraise. Check. Fee support scholarship update. Check. Resolution to update dependent scholarship. Check. Scholarships awarded. Check. New regalia closet. Check. New strategic plan. Check.

We added new events to our already long list of fun things we do to engage and celebrate across campus. From the new staff reception, pumpkins and door decorating in the fall, to Holiday on Campus, to the most incredible Staff Appreciation Week with my personal favorites being the Stadium Tours, the Staff stripes Awards we presented to 8 outstanding recipients, and of course, the ice cream social. My heart could not have been more full than that last day, talking to now President Lee about how wonderful the week was, the joy and appreciation our staff expressed at every event, and how much we did with so little because of all the amazing senators we have who come together to make magic happen.

I'll tell y'all a little story. Some of you have heard a few pieces of it... but there's a new tidbit to share that I think exemplifies all that we do. When I moved to Louisiana, my mortgage broker was the one who told me to try and get a job at LSU because "nobody ever leaves there." While I now know that wasn't true, I followed her advice and started applying. My first interview was with the Transportation Research Center with Marie Walsh, where I told Marie that I like challenges and putting on a show like Disney, where I can make the magic happen. I started on May 20, 2019. And Marie promptly informed everyone she was retiring at the end of June. When she retired, she left me a cute little Minnie Mouse pen and a note that said "Olivia, make the magic happen." And today, more than 6 years later, that pen and note still hang in my office. The words are faded, barely legible. But I know exactly what that note means and I see it happening every day across campus, not just from Staff Senators, but all our staff.

Disney said "There is no magic in magic. It's all in the details." Over the past year, we made a lot of magic happen together. Y'all showed up to carry out the details in ways I never imagined. From Campus Federal coming through on that Jambalaya Sale that

saved funding staff appreciation week, to Tammy negotiating with both the seafood board and Montalbano's to maximize those funds from Campus Federal, to Mo and the tent that saved the rainy tailgate. Our magicians behind the scenes like Stephenie with the most incredible contributions to that strategic plan, Celeste supporting both the strategic plan, and the scholarship agreement updates, Casey creating our phenomenal graphics, and Ginger and Josh getting the newsletter out to campus. And of course, Melonie who waves her magic wand and all the stuff we need to pull these things off just kind of appears. Thank you all.

To my gaggle of kids, thanks for letting me disappear this year. I missed games, took calls on the sidelines, answered emails during events, forgot to text back, and was generally, just not as around. Next year is Elliot's senior year, so he gets his mom back just in time.

Finally, to my new husband, Frank. We started this adventure having just blended our brady bunch family a few months before. And we're ending it as husband and wife. Not only did you help me pull off our magical wedding, you showed up to events, brought supplies, provided tools and crafting stuff for us, tolerated all the emails and phone calls at all hours of the day and night, and most importantly, you listened to every gripe, problem, and dilemma. You commiserated with me and offered advice. You gave me all the support this role requires and did so without ever complaining. Thank you.

Quinneke, this show is now yours to continue to create the magic and I am so excited to see all the amazing things you will accomplish with all these senators by your side. After all these wins, I am going to Disneyland.

Cheers. And Geaux Tigers.”

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Recognition of Senators**

President Olivia Hope recognized Senators for their Dedication and Service and for those who fulfilled their terms of office. Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Liaisons on Committees during this past year were also mentioned. Hope also presented the President’s Attendance Award to Senators who had perfect attendance at all of the Staff Senate meetings for the year on behalf of the Executive Committee.

President Olivia Hope announced that the LSU Outstanding New Senator Award, chosen by the Staff Senate Executive Committee, in recognition of a new member of the LSU Staff Senate who has provided outstanding service to the Senate for the 2024-2025 Senate year was being presented to Senator Willie Louviere.

President Olivia Hope announced that the LSU Staff Senator Service Award, chosen by the Staff Senate Executive Committee, in recognition of an individual member of the LSU Staff Senate who provided outstanding service to the Senate for the 2024-2025 year, was being presented to Senators Stephenie Franks, Casey Muller, and Celeste Smith.

President Olivia Hope announced that the Executive Committee would like to present the new Innovators Award, in recognition of their groundbreaking ideas and the successful implementation of innovative solutions, we proudly present the Innovator Awards to Senators Jennifer Kennison, Neely Martin-Whitaker, and Anthony Oster whose forward-thinking leadership has already delivered meaningful impact and inspired progress across our LSU campus community.

President Olivia Hope also presented the President's Parachute Award to Senator Mo Carney for jumping right in and helping with the logistics for Staff Appreciation Week.

### **Introduction of Elected Senators**

President Olivia Hope announced the newly elected Staff Senators who were chosen to serve on the LSU Staff Senate.

#### **Unclassified Employee Group:**

Kevin Breaux with the Graduate School  
Roberto Champney with the College of Engineering  
Stephenie Franks with the College of Business  
Alexandra Garcia with the Center for Academic Success  
Ginger Guttner with the LSU Veterinary School of Medicine  
Jennifer Kennison with the Office of Global Engagement  
Brooke Rust with the LSU Veterinary School of Medicine  
Laquita White with Residential Life  
Stephenie Franks with College of Business

#### **Classified Employee Group:**

Whitney Butler with the College of Art and Design  
Vickie Madison with University College  
Allison Williams with the School of Landscape Architecture

### **President's – Passing of the Gavel**

President Olivia Hope officially passed the gavel to President-Elect Quinneke McDonald.

### **President Recognition**

President Quinneke McDonald recognized Past-President Olivia Hope for her Dedication and Service for participating in committees that she had served on this year and for fulfilling her term of office.

President Quinneke McDonald presented Past-President Olivia Hope with the President's Attendance Award for her perfect attendance at all Staff Senate meetings for the year.

President Quinneke McDonald also recognized Past-President Olivia Hope for her dedication and service to the LSU Community and the LSU Staff Senate, as LSU Staff Senate President 2024-2025, and thanked her for all of her work this past year. Hope received her President's Plaque.

### **Introduction of the 2025-2026 Executive Committee Officers**

President Quinneke McDonald announced the 2025-2026 Staff Senate Executive Committee members:

President-Elect Tammy Millican  
Secretary Bradley Waters  
Treasurer Henri Smith  
Member-at-Large Mo Carney  
Past-President (Ex-Officio) Olivia Hope

### **Future Guest Speakers**

If anyone has any suggestions, please send those to the Executive Committee.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Staff Senate Budget**

Treasurer Henri Smith provided a written financial report for June that was included in the meeting packet for Senate review.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **New Member Orientation**

President Quinneke McDonald announced that a New Member Orientation will be scheduled soon for New Members to attend.

#### **July Meeting**

The July meeting will be held in the Event Room on the second floor of Barnes & Noble at LSU on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

#### **Staff Senator Birthday**

Staff Senator June Birthdays:

- Senator Deanna Gresham celebrated her birthday on June 2.
- Senator Winkeyssa Robertson celebrated her birthday on June 6.
- Senator Anthony Oster celebrated his birthday on June 12.
- Senator Amber Bonner celebrated her birthday on June 15.
- Senator Bradley Waters celebrated his birthday on June 15.

Happy Birthday!

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** – With there being no more business, Treasurer Henri Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Secretary Bradley Waters, carried.

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

Bradley Waters, Secretary

BW/mm