

LSU | Staff Senate

MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2025

President Olivia Phelps presided over the May 21, 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 - Tammy Millican ('27)

Professional/Non-Faculty

P - Blanchard, Debbie ('27)

Pr - Bonner, Amber ('26)

P - Breaux, Kevin ('25)

P - Carney, Mo ('27)

P - Cristina, Jennifer ('26)

A - Drake, Dalmer ('26)

P - Duplechain, Joshua ('25)

P - Faulkner, Carli ('27)

A - Franks, Stephenie ('25)

P - Gresham, Deanna ('27)

P - Guttner, Ginger ('25)

P - Kennison, Jennifer ('25)

P - Louviere, Willie ('27)

P - Martin-Whitaker, Neely ('25)

Pr - McDonald, Quinneke ('27)

P - Miller, Cassaundra ('25)

A - Mimms, Anissa ('26)

P - Muller, Casey ('26)

Pr - Nassif, Haley ('26)

P - Oster, Anthony ('24)

P - Owens, Jace ('26)

P - Phelps, Olivia ('26)

P - Popov, Jennifer ('26)

A - Simpson, Katilyn ('25)

P - Smith, Henri ('27)

P - Waters, Bradley ('26)

P - White, Dayton ('25)

P - 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:

Carolyn Dragseth, Office of Innovation & Technology Commercialization
Casey Coughlin, Campus Federal Credit Union

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum with three proxies noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Debbie Blanchard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – April 16, 2025, Staff Senate Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Secretary Bradley Waters. The motion, seconded by Senator Paige Whittington, carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Olivia Phelps reviewed relevant meetings in which she attended.

The Executive Committee met with Provost Roy Haggerty before the announcement that he is leaving LSU. Interim Provost Troy Blanchard has reached out to schedule a meeting with the Staff Senate Executive Committee.

Staff Appreciation Week was held during the week of April 21 and was a huge success. She thanked everyone who helped with planning and attending the events that week.

Phelps attended the Council of Staff Advisors meeting on April 24. The LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans is creating a Staff Senate and will begin attending the Council of Staff Advisors Meetings.

Phelps attended the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 25. Governor Landry presented scholarships to the surviving family members of two of the victims from the New Year's Day New Orleans Terror Attack.

Phelps attended the University Council Meeting. It was reported that there are no exceptions to the hiring freeze. There is a wait on approval from the Governor for hiring with no update if that will end on June 30 or if it will be extended. The incoming first-year class goal is 8,000.

Phelps volunteered at the Global Community Center to pick up donated items for the LSU Swap Shop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education & Professional Development

Senator Neely Martin-Whitaker submitted a written report for the meeting that was held on April 9, 2025, which was included in the meeting packet for review.

The Staff Fee Support Scholarship agreement was amended to reduce the award amount from \$1,000 to \$300 dollars per semester per recipient due to fees being waived for employees who are students.

There was some discussion of further revisions needed in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Senate Executive Officer Nomination Speeches

President Phelps announced the 2025-2026 Staff Senate Executive Officer Candidates. Staff Senators will hear their election speeches during the meeting today and voting will be open electronically this afternoon.

The results will be tabulated after the deadline for voting on June 2, 2025. The new Officers will be announced during the June meeting.

President-Elect	Tammy Millican (unopposed)
Secretary	Willie Louviere Bradley Waters
Treasurer	Henri Smith (unopposed)
Member-at-Large	Celeste Smith Mo Carney

LSU Staff Senate Resolution 25-01 to Establish and Clarify Criteria for the LSU Staff Dependent Scholarship, sponsored by the LSU Staff Senators C. Smith, Q McDonald, O. Phelps, T. Millican

First Reading, read by President Olivia Phelps

WHEREAS, the LSU Staff Senate recognizes the importance of providing educational support to dependents of full-time and retired staff members of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College; and

WHEREAS, the LSU Staff Dependent Scholarship seeks to financially assist eligible dependents of LSU staff who are pursuing undergraduate education at Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College; and

WHEREAS, clear eligibility criteria must be defined to ensure the scholarship exclusively supports dependents of eligible LSU staff, where staff are defined as classified, unclassified/professional, other academic, wages as earned, and transient employees employed at least 75% FTE or retired from LSU, explicitly excluding student employees and Graduate Assistants; and

WHEREAS, the recipient of the LSU Staff Dependent Scholarship must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at LSU, must have earned at least 15 credit hours of coursework, and must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5; and

WHEREAS, concerns have arisen regarding the recipient selection process, specifically related to the inadvertent awarding of scholarships to dependents of LSU faculty members rather than staff dependents; and

WHEREAS, oversight and transparency in the recipient selection process are crucial to uphold the scholarship's intended purpose.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the LSU Staff Senate hereby proposes the following recommendations and requests:

- Specifying the scholarship award amount of \$500 per academic year (\$250 in fall semester and \$250 in spring semester) per recipient will provide clarity and ensure consistency in awarding funds.
- Clear communication and marketing to staff of the scholarship opportunity will help ensure that eligible staff members and their dependents are informed of the criteria and application process.
- Development of an appeals process should be established to allow applicants to request reconsideration of scholarship decisions in cases of error or extenuating circumstances.
- The creation of the Scholarship Review Committee should be structured to include members of the LSU Staff Senate, representatives from relevant LSU offices, and an external community member, in accordance with Staff Senate guidelines.
- Periodic review of the scholarship policy and criteria (at least once every two years) is necessary to ensure continued relevance, fairness, and alignment with the university's goals.
- Collecting and analyzing data on scholarship applications, recipients, and outcomes will allow the LSU Staff Senate to evaluate the impact of the scholarship program and make data-driven improvements.

THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that the LSU Staff Senate formally adopts the revised name "LSU Staff Dependent Scholarship" to clearly reflect its intended recipients; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that the LSU Staff Senate endorses the full implementation of all recommendations stated herein and will work collaboratively with relevant campus constituents to ensure timely and effective execution.

THEREFORE, be it further resolved, said recommendations should be shared with the leadership of the three official governance bodies of the university, namely LSU Staff Senate, LSU Faculty Senate, and LSU Student Government.

THEREFORE, be it finally resolved, a copy of this resolution be sent to Interim President Matt Lee, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Troy Blanchard, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice President and Chief Data Officer Keena Arbuthnot, Vice President of Engagement, Civil Rights and Title IX Todd Manuel, Vice President of Marketing & Communications Todd Woodward, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success Danny Barrow, Associate Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer Clay Jones, Faculty Senate President Daniel Tirone, and Student Government President Lavar Henderson.

A motion to forgo a second reading and approve LSU Staff Senate Resolution 25-01 was made by Treasurer Henri Smith. The motion, seconded by Past-President Joshua Duplechain, carried.

The Staff Senate approved the Resolution with no abstentions.

LSU Staff Senate Strategic Plan

Member-at-Large Tammy Millican announced that the Long Range Review and Planning Committee released the final draft of the LSU Staff Senate Strategic Plan 2025-2030 electronically for the full Senate to review as a first reading before the general meeting.

A motion to forgo a second reading and accept the Staff Senate's Strategic Plan 2025-2030 for adoption was made by Member-at-Large Tammy Millican. The motion, seconded by Secretary Bradley Waters, carried.

The Staff Senate approved the Strategic Plan with no abstentions.

LSU Staff Pantry

Senator Jennifer Cristina would like to start an employee pantry. There are many universities that serve their employee population, but LSU does not. There is a need, and she would like to set up something discreetly. She asked for Senator volunteers to help with the coordination in making this initiative happen. Several Senators were interested in working on this effort.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Senate Budget

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June Meeting

The June meeting will be held at Walkons restaurant to celebrate recognitions and the end of the senate year.

Staff Senator Birthday

Staff Senator May Birthdays:

- President-Elect Quinneke McDonald celebrated her birthday on May 11.
- Senator Casey Muller will celebrate his birthday on May 27.

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