

UNA Staff Senate

March 9, 2026

10:00 AM

GUC 200

- I. Call to Order- President Anna Leigh Rossi began the meeting at 10:03am.
- II. Roll Call (Senators, Proxies, & Visitors)- Members present and comprising a quorum were: Mr. Adrian Miller, Ms. Anna Leigh Rossi, Ms. Anna Milwee, Ms. Bretta Cagle, Ms. Cala Flippo, Ms. Catherine Martin, Ms. Debbie Williams, Dr. Kathleen Richards, Ms. Emily Patterson, Ms. Erin Wittscheck, Ms. Hollon McCullar, Ms. Hope Buckley, Ms. Janet Jones, Mr. Jarrod Russell, Mr. Jeremy Martin, Mr. John LeMay, Ms. Kari-Kay Cassady, Ms. Mary Harber, Ms. Megan Simmons, Dr. Molly Mathis, and Ms. Salena Denton. Ms. Kelly Rutherford attended as proxy for Ms. Kendra White. Ms. Michele Aycock was absent with no proxy.
- III. Approval of Agenda- Dr. Kathleen Richards made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Cat Martin seconded and the motion carried.
- IV. Approval of Minutes- Ms. Hope Buckley made a motion to approve the February 2026 minutes. Ms. Kari-Kay Cassady seconded and the motion carried.
- V. Staff Senate President's Report-
  - a. President Anna Leigh Rossi reminded Senators that a Staff Senate Interest Meeting will be held just before the April Staff Senate meeting on 4/13 at 9am. The interest meeting is for any staff interested in or wanting to learn more about serving on Staff Senate. Dr Lauren Killen plans to attend the meeting to answer questions about Shared Governance and the Shared Governance process.
  - b. The Senate seat vacancy for Academic Affairs has been filled by Ms. Emily Patterson.
  - c. Vacancies for the 2026-2029 Staff Senate Terms are as follows: two in Academic Affairs, two in Student Affairs, three in Business and Financial Affairs, and one in Advancement.
  - d. A Shared Governance Orientation Work Group has been developed to share information with staff about Shared Governance, its purpose and processes.
- VI. Committee Reports
  - a. Staff Attitude Survey- President Anna Leigh Rossi shared that the Staff Attitude Survey Committee met on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss

edits and additions to the 2025 survey, and those edits are currently in progress. Questions are being added regarding Shared Governance and the Merit Increase process. The planned distribution timeframe for the survey is April 7-21, 2026.

- b. Staff Merit- No report.
  - c. Staff Visibility- Ms. Megan Simmons shared that Employee Rec Day will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-3pm at Veteran's Park. Staff Senate and Faculty Senate will sponsor a free ice cream from Chubby Hubby for employees. Employees will receive a voucher for a free ice cream and can trade it for the treat of their choice.
  - d. Distinguished Staff Employee of the Year- President Anna Leigh Rossi shared updates from the committee. The committee met on February 26<sup>th</sup> to review nominations. 22 total nominations were received this year, and 16 total nominations were reviewed. (5 nominations were removed due to having under 5 years of service, and 1 was removed due to their winning recently.) The award will be presented at the University Awards Gala on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. Staff Affairs- No report.
- VII. Unfinished Business- None
- VIII. New Business-
- a. Staff Senate reviewed the Interim Discrimination and Harassment Policy before it passes to the Board of Trustees. The purpose of the review is to assess the policy and review proposed edits, making the policy easier to understand. President Anna Leigh Rossi asks that Senators review the edits to the document and send any questions or suggested edits to her within the next 48 hours so that she may send them on.
- IX. Discussion
- X. Announcements- None
- a. Light the Fountain is on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, and the rain date is March 16<sup>th</sup>. This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event.
- XI. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

