



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 8, 2025 - 10:00 AM ITS Conference Room

- I. Call to Order was promptly at 10 a.m.
- II. Roll Call – Perrin Rickenbaker, Grant Stone, Brittany Chadwick, Kendra Rodgers, Anna Crawford, Taylor Haigler, Karen Petit, Wyatt McInerney, Brittany Brissey

Excused absences: Perrin Rickenbaker, Matt Moore, Sydney Stanley.
- III. Guest Report: Dr. Walter Iriarte, assistant professor of Media & Communication

Iriarte discussed his video game theory class, which has re-created the Lander campus in the pixelated world of Minecraft, one of the best-selling video games in the world. People around the world will now have the opportunity to view Lander University Minecraft and get a tour of campus, its buildings and landscaping. Nine students spent between six to 12 hours to create a section of campus. The video game has amazing details and offers “Easter eggs” for gamers and a scavenger hunt in Jackson Library, among other surprising treats.

“Minecraft is a great platform to show our campus,” Iriarte said, explaining that future plans could expand the game to include the City of Greenwood.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Brittany Brissey to approve the April 10th minutes, with a second by Pleshette Elmore. The minutes were approved as written.
- V. Chair Report: Taylor Haigler
Taylor congratulated Staff Senate members, Brittany Chadwick and Sydney Stanley, for earning their master’s degrees and being recognized for their academic achievement at commencement on Wednesday, May 6.

Taylor also reminded Staff Senate that Employee Appreciation Day would be Tuesday, May 20.

Nominations are open through the end of May for vacant Staff Senate positions in Athletics, Finance and Administration, and Enrollment Management. The election for Staff Senate will be in June, and newly elected members will begin serving in July.
- VI. Division Announcements, Adjournment: As there were no Division announcements, a motion was made by Anna Crawford to adjourn the open session of Staff Senate. Wyatt McInerney seconded the motion. The open session was adjourned.

Staff Senate Mission Statement

The Lander University Staff Senate exists to enhance the welfare of its staff; to serve as a liaison between staff, administration, faculty, and students; and to advise the administration on matters concerning the staff. This focus provides staff a voice to promote a positive, respectful work environment that sustains both personal and professional growth. In support of the university’s strategic plan, specifically the goal of remaining an employer of choice, the senate strives foremost to contribute to the overall success of Lander University and its students.

Executive Session

- I. Election Updates and Planning: Taylor reported that vacancies for Staff Senate positions include Athletics (2), Finance and Administration (3) and Enrollment Management (1). She asked Staff Senate members to encourage people to be nominated for the open posts and said that she would promote the election at Staff Excellence Day.
- II. Staff Excellence Day: Taylor said that awards would be presented to Employee of the Month recipients. Jamie Wilson reminded Taylor that the awards' layout and design would need to be approved by the Office of Marketing and Communications. Among the highlights of Staff Excellence Day will be a "staff shoutout station" near the pool, food trucks and a paint and pour class.

Kendra Rodgers said the theme of the day centers on the 50th anniversary of Disney World, as the Staff Excellence Day is marking its 25th anniversary. University staff are encouraged to wear Disney-themed attire.

- III. Upcoming Initiatives: Staff Senate will coordinate the Employee of the Month recognition program.
- IV. Open Discussion: Taylor announced to Staff Senate that she is leaving Lander to begin a new position as Director of Admissions for Tri-County Technical College. Her new position will begin June 2. Brittany Brissey will serve as Staff Senate Chair.
- V. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

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