



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 12, 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, Matthew Moore, Anna Crawford, Karen Petit, Sydney Stanley, Pleshette Elmore, Wyatt McInerney, Brittany Brissey

Excused absences: Buck Billings, Jamie Wilson, Kendra Rogers
- III. Treasurer’s Report: Brittany Chadwick reported that the Staff Senate had a \$1,500 budget for the fiscal year, of which \$338.35 was spent on awards on Staff Excellence Day. Of the \$1,161.65 remaining, there were additional fees to be subtracted, including the cost of the Paint and Pour activity for \$500, \$100 for the Staff Shoutout and other possible expenses. A question was raised if unused funds could go into the fiscal year 2025-26 budget.
- IV. Guest Report: Lisa Wiecki, Director of Library Services

Lisa Wiecki discussed the book, “Lander University,” which she co-authored with Dr. David Mash, for the 150th anniversary celebration of the University in 2022. The in-depth research for the book unveiled the University’s rich history – from its founding in 1872 as Williamston Female College to the modern era of a public University, which was re-located from its original location to Greenwood in 1904.

Wiecki share personal insights into the life of the college’s founder, Samuel Lander, who moved to Williamston with his wife and children to be a minister. However, he soon realized that the opportunity existed to found a college for young women to help support not only his ministry, but his family as well. Known as the “Saratoga of the South” for its healing spring water, Williamston had been a popular destination before the Civil War for tourists seeking the health benefits of the spring water. With the hotel now vacant, Lander and his wife, Laura, went to work to renovate the building and develop the college.

The school opened on Feb. 12, 1872, with 33 students. By the next day, there were 44. From there, the school flourished in Williamston and outgrew its setting. Wiecki shared photographs from the Williamston years in her presentation, including a sumptuous menu for the Thanksgiving dinner in 1902. She also distributed bookmarks and a copy of a “Dear Daughter” note, which Lander would send to students when issues of academic and other disciplinary issues were needed.

Wiecki’s talk gave insight on the school’s history, as well as the visionary model that Lander established for the school – so carefully planned and executed that the college never faltered and

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.

has grown over the years and garnered an outstanding reputation as a four-year institution with a strong academic foundation.

- IV. Minutes: A motion was made by Grant Stone to approve the May 8 minutes, with a second from Pleshette Elmore.
- V. Chair Report: In her new role as Staff Senate Chair, Brittany Brissey thanked Staff Senate for their volunteer activities on Staff Excellence Day, held May 19. She reported that Karen Mobley was the recipient of the Staff Shoutout. She received \$100 in Bearcat Bucks.

She also discussed that voting for Staff Senate posts would be done electronically on June 16. Positions are open in Athletics, Finance and Administration and Enrollment Management. The new Staff Senate will begin their terms on July 1, 2025 and attend their first meeting on July 10, 2025.

- VI. Division Announcements: Pleshette told Staff Senate that Freshman Orientation would soon be underway on campus.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Grant Stone to adjourn the open session of Staff Senate. A second was made by Perrin Rickenbaker. The open session was adjourned.

Executive Session

- I. Budget Report: Brittany said that she will check on the outstanding expenses of \$500 and \$100. She would like to purchase clipboards for Staff Senate members, as well as T-shirts.

She also talked about the Office Spotlight Award being done by Staff Senate.

- II. Open Discussion: Karen said some staff members had asked about the possibility of the swimming pool being open to staff and their families/friends. Wyatt said discussion was underway about this matter, and he was waiting on the University's administration to finalize plans.

Discussion also was held on having a newsletter that would highlight the accomplishments of staff and distributed to the campus community, including staff achievements and service outside of Lander.

An additional discussion was held regarding Staff Excellence Day. It was noted that not every Division on campus recognized an outstanding employee, with three Divisions being left out.

Also, it was noted that the parking permits are a cause of safety concerns among some staff, who believe that having their place of work on their automobiles could put them at risk

Brittany encouraged the use of the online feedback form as well for concerns.

- III. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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