



Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Staff Senate was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 2:00 p.m., in the University Center Auditorium. The May meeting minutes were approved.

Before committee updates began, Chancellor Bruce presented a gift to President Wells to express thanks for the successful first year with Staff Senate.

Committee Updates:

Awards and Nominations Committee update from chair Emily Rosenquist and member Mary Beth Ondrusek:

- Newbie Award: 10 nominations and 2 winners announced: Bails Tunnell and Bethany Weaver
- Scrappy's Unsung Hero: 19 nominations and 1 winner announced: Leah Barrett Collins
- Breaking Silos Award: 5 nominations and 1 winner announced: Jami Hargrove

Curiosity Committee update from Victoria Bryan:

- Staff conference schedule for July 23 and RSVP deadline is July 16.
- Staff book club kick-off meeting had more than 30 people in attendance. Book recommendations were provided and 3 were chosen at random. Three facilitators were identified and meetings scheduled.

Parliamentarian Update:

To allow for electronic voting for new staff senators starting in the 2026-2027 term, the executive committee motioned to make an edit to the bylaws: Article VI, Section VII. Motion approved. Bylaw section will be updated to read (change in bold italics):

Each Voting Senator in good standing shall have one vote at any meeting of the Staff Senate. ***Voting shall normally be by voice, show of hands, or electronically at the discretion of the president*** unless a roll call or vote by confidential ballot is requested by a voting member (roll-call votes shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting).

Administrative Reports were given by:

Vice Chancellor JAY Blackman

- Corporate Challenge went well with many UTC successes and plans to participate in the future.
- The 2026-2027 year will be the 140th anniversary and many events are being planned to celebrate including Founder's Week Celebration (September 15), 1886 Challenge (community service hours), 140 events for 120 years, and Gold Fridays (wear gold).

Residence Life Assistant Director Jason Harville

- Operation Move-In (OMI) will be August 19 and August 20
- Any office providing their swag to new students need to bring it to Pfeiffer Hall by July 15.
- Email questions about OMI to omi@utc.edu. This email is for faculty/staff only – not for incoming students with questions about move in.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Laure Pou

- Merit Nomination processed concluded on June 1. The file is in final preparation to be sent to the system for July 1 (staff, 12mon faculty) or August 1 (9mon faculty) effective date. Automated notifications should be sent to employee with raise amount and new salary.
- The Employee and Organizational Development Consultant position was posted in May and has had a number of good candidates. Hopefully the search will be completed by first/mid-August.
- LifeGuides is a new resources for employees with the first emails announcing it were in May. The resource has many opportunities for employees including mentorship.
- Following the implementation of DASH, some transactions had to be started within HR instead of the specific department. HR has provided training documents to allow staff to start these transactions within their unit. These changes will become effective July 1. HR will provide office hours to help assist in the transition.

Back to School Panel

Terrence Banks, UG Admissions

Ethan Carver, Graduate School

Janice Cosey, Bursar's Office

Rebecca Dragoo, Registrar's Office

The panel briefly discussed the process to be admitted, navigate the tuition fee-waiver process, and the registration process. Staff can work towards a degree, enroll as a non-degree student and/or audit courses.

Campus Conversation with incoming Interim Provost Matt Matthews.

President Wells presented his final president's report to include the highlights and accomplishments of the year.

President Wells also presented Susan Lazenby and Melita Rector with gifts of gratitude for their work to get Staff Senate started.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 3:48p.m.