

LSUHSC March 10, 2026, Staff Senate Minutes- 2pm meeting Lions Eye Center 632 and Zoom

Senators present included:

**School of Allied Health**

Angelica Bruno

Wilbert Johnson

**School of Dentistry**

Michele Holmes

**School of Medicine**

Brandi Donelon

Treva Durr- At Large

Cecilia Estep

Amy Gray

Louie Schneider

**School of Nursing**

Brian "Nic" Manuel

Dusty Pigg

**School of Public Health**

Toya D. Shanklin

**Division of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**

Troylyn Billew

Rashantis Gray

Tonika Lockhart Mackie

Dale Prince

Kresenda Raasch

Ivy Strong

**Divisions of the Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance + Chancellor Admin**

Kyle Walker- Secretary

Jessica Riche

**Registered proxies included:**

Cody Palazzolo (Patty Oates proxy)

Pam Galindo (Angelica Bruno)

Michael Boutee (Kyle Walker) proxy

Senator Patty Oates called the Meeting to Order at 2:00pm

**Invited Speakers / Special Presentations**

A. Remarks from Senior Vice Chancellor David Guick:

1. The staff make the institution run on time and keep the virtuous circle intact.
2. Focus on placing funded researchers in the MEB renovated space
3. Focus on attaining the NCI designation & increasing research expenditures to increase our academic ranking

B. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

i. Dr. Porche's report:

1. LSU Flagship University SVC & Provost national search launched, two meetings conducted to date
2. SOM LCME accreditation completed, no recommendations
3. Animal Care AAALAC accreditation visit completed – several accolades, 9 areas for quality improvement and no major findings, will recommend continued full accreditation
4. SACSCOC prospectus continues to be drafted for submission on March 15
5. Vice Chair of IRB appointed, Dr. Stephanie Primeaux
6. 112 Promotion and/or Tenure packets processed through the VCAA office

ii. Campus Assistance Program: Stress Management presentation by Aleyda Diaz, Counselor and Kaci Hannan, Coordinator

1. Employees are eligible for 3-6 sessions. If more is needed, CAP will review insurance and other options
2. <https://www.lsuhsu.edu/orgs/campushealth/cap.aspx>

C. Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

i. Human Resources: ADA accommodations presentation by Mikel Jarvis, Employee Relations Manager

1. <https://www.lsuhsu.edu/administration/hrm/employeerelations.aspx>

ii. Human Resources: Employee Assistance Program presentation by Madison Hopkins, Benefits Manager

1. Free 30-minute consultation per legal matter. Free legal resource center
2. <https://www.lsuhsu.edu/administration/hrm/docs/Aetna%20EAP.pdf>

D. University Police: Awareness and Self Defense presentation

1. Focus on prevention and awareness
2. If you see something, say something
3. Employees can register for a self-defense class.
4. <https://www.lsuhsu.edu/administration/vcgcsa/police/default.aspx>

Senator Kyle Walker motioned to approve the January 2026 Minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Jessica Riche and passed unanimously.

**President's Report**

1. LSU Staff Senate Resolution to provide an undergraduate tuition discount for spouses and children will be presented to the President. The discount is \$25 per credit hour. If you receive scholarships, you are not eligible for the discount.
2. Employee tuition for in person and online classes will be addressed next.

## **Committee Reports**

Communications – Chair: Courtney Martin. Co-Chair- Kyle Walker

1. Working on updating webpages and the 1 page Staff Senate brief which is a quick recap of the meeting.
2. Check the website for agendas, meeting minutes and event information

Community Engagement and Development- Chair: Patty Oates

1. Working on staff recognition activity.
2. Discussing fundraisers such as a staff polo shirt

Elections – Chair: Patty Oates

1. No updates until fall.

Staff Advocacy and Retention- Chair: Michele Holmes

1. AED information is now on the digital signs
2. Task force subcommittees are working to directly address concerns.

## **Old Business**

Staff Senate responses to submitted questions/answers:

1. The Faculty Senate response was sufficient regarding the Vice Chancellor appointment
2. The Ten Commandments were donated and will be posted in the classrooms per President Wade Rouse
3. Cafeteria plans to go cashless: The move to cashless payments in the cafeteria is a business decision made by Auxiliaries; however, individuals who prefer to use cash can visit the bookstore to either add funds to their LSUSHC ID through Pay Paw or exchange cash for a reloadable declining balance card that can be used for cafeteria purchases.
4. 1-page recaps regarding the Staff Senate meetings will be sent to the schools via email and will be available on the website
5. Are we violating the staff senate constitution by having social events instead of the scheduled staff senate meetings? Dedicating 1.5 hours once a month for Staff Senate meetings/activities is adequate. A Resolution or modifying the constitution will be reviewed to address the concern.

New Business -Updates from LSUSHC Committees and Schools

Faculty Senate- Michael Boutte – no update

Wellness -Angelica Bruno

1. Wellness Challenge started today through March 31 and covers hydration, sleep, nutrition, physical activity and self-care. Winners will be announced April 1<sup>st</sup>.

2. <https://www.lsuhscc.edu/orgs/campushealth/events.aspx>
3. Please take part in a [QUICK 5 minute survey](#) which is an assessment of the effectiveness of 21 Day challenge and benefits of establishing wellness habits

Hunger Free Campus workforce- Angelica Bruno

1. Next meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup>
2. March 30 – April 15 collection for Food for Finals
3. We are in the planning stages for the Back-to-School health fair this August

### **Schools**

The School of Medicine received accreditation

### **Open discussion:**

1. The Staff Senate should prepare questions that are given to Dr. Guzick prior to the next opportunity to speak with him.
2. Each committee should prepare a draft budget, and Senators can vote on it.
3. Expenses will be reviewed.
4. \$1,500 in the Staff Senate Foundation account.
5. A Senator representative is needed for the wellness committee and Hunger Free Campus workforce.

Meeting adjourned at 3:24pm by President Patty Oates