

MEETING MINUTES

STAFF SENATE FULL BODY

Date: August 6, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Meeting called to order by: Brynne Pulver, Staff Senate Chair 10:01

SENATOR ROLL CALL

[See below.](#)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Agenda Approval:** Cara Arena made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sarah Myers. The motion was carried after a vote.
- **Minutes Approval:** Elizabeth Durning motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by April Harris. The minutes were approved following a vote.

Introduction of Leadership:

- Brynne Pulver, serving as chair, introduced the 2026-2027 Staff Senate leadership team, including:
 - Kara Milton, Vice Chair,
 - Scott Wilkens, Secretary
 - Adrian Williams, Parliamentarian
 - Shannon Lovett, Treasurer (absent)
 - Carla Wilson, Past Chair

2026-2027 Vision for Staff Senate: Brynne Pulver introduced the five pillars guiding the Senate's vision for the year.

- **Five Pillars of Senate Vision:** Brynne Pulver described the five pillars for the Staff Senate: strengthening staff voice, deepening campus presence, investing in people through professional development, fostering belonging and engagement, and shaping the future with a new strategic plan.
- **Professional Development Initiatives:** The Senators Step Up program will continue, allowing senators to take leadership courses at the Center for Creative Leadership.

- **Strategic Planning:** The Senate will actively work on a three-year strategic plan, with plans to share the results in the spring.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Waiyi Tse, Chief of Staff

- **Leadership Transitions:** Tina McIntire retired. John Loonan started as Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration in May, and Wade Maki became the Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives in the Chancellor's office.
- **AI Initiatives:** Wade Maki is leading trainings on equality policy and institutional neutrality, and is involved in AI pilot programs with the ITS team and system office, aiming to make staff lives easier through automation.
- **Communication Centralization:** Kathryn Crockart, AVC of communications, is centralizing communications and marketing positions, introducing a new model with enrollment communications among other areas being absorbed with an effort towards strengthen campus branding.

Todd Sutton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Learning Technology and Customer Success

- **Todd was unable to be present for this meeting. Please see the slides for his presentation.**

Patricia Lynch, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer

- **Staffing Changes in HR:** Yasra Arshad was promoted from HR specialist to HR consultant in Class and Comp, Chris Chappell is the lead training specialist in human resources, Rebekah Funicello was hired as a talent consultant, and Katelyn Halas was promoted from administrative associate to executive assistant. Christy Lennon resigned as HR business partner. Patricia will be stepping in as a business partner for Christy in the interim, but Melinda Gonzalez and Shanice Martin will continue their roles.
- **Salary Increase Implementation:** A 3% salary increase was implemented and paid on July 31st, calculated based on June 30th base estimates, with the finance and administration team completing the process in two days.
- **Bonus Structure and Eligibility:** Eligible employees with annual salaries of \$65,000 or less will receive a \$1,750 bonus, while those earning more will receive \$1,000. Bonuses are non-recurring, subject to taxes, and will be paid in October. Permanent part-time employees are eligible; temporary and student employees are not.
- **Open Enrollment and Insurance Premiums:** Open enrollment is scheduled for October 12th-31st, with most insurance premiums increasing by approximately 5% effective January 1st. An extra tier for access providers was added, and out-of-pocket expenses increased.
- **Address Updates and Communication:** Employees are reminded to update their home addresses in Genie to ensure correct correspondence regarding benefits and open enrollment.
- **SHRA to EPS Conversion Campaign:** Ashley Hockaday will lead a campaign from September 14th to November 13th to offer SHRA employees the opportunity to convert positions to EPS, with three info sessions and two virtual office sessions planned. Conversion is voluntary, and vacant positions are being converted automatically.

- **New Talent Management Platform – UNCG & NEOED:** The HR department and ITS are working to move to a new talent management platform, aiming for cost efficiency and improved data integrity. Automation and integration are ongoing.
- **Timekeeping Automation:** The team is continuing to work with ITS to automate timekeeping, phasing in early and non-exempt groups, and conducting comparisons with other institutions. The project is ongoing, with behind-the-scenes work in progress.

GUEST SPEAKER

Juan Pleitez, Director of External Affairs Strategy and Policy

- **Employee Compensation and Bonuses:** Eligible state and university personnel will receive a 3% salary increase effective July 1st, 2026. Sworn law enforcement officers will receive a 13% increase. Employees earning more than \$65,000 will receive a \$1,000 bonus, while those earning less will receive \$1,750. State retirees will get a one-time 2.5% cost of living adjustment.
- **UNC System Funding:** The budget allocates \$153 million to fully fund the UNC system's enrollment growth funding request, though some of the funding is non-recurring. Previous versions of the budget had significant cuts, but none were included in the final version.
- **Sports Wagering and Athletic Support:** The excise tax on sports wagering operations increased from 18% to 23%, raising UNGS's estimated annual athletic department support from \$2.4 million to \$3 million.
- **Student Support and Specific Campus Allocations:** The budget includes \$15 million in recurring funding for need-based financial aid and additional support for military-affiliated students, healthcare workforce programs, and other initiatives that help students gain a high-quality education. UNC Greensboro received \$1 million for the BRIGHT Institute and \$8.47 million for the Armory building renovation project.
- **Legislative Session Timeline:** The state legislature concluded its regular session, with no expected action until November or December unless a natural calamity occurs. The long session begins in January, focusing on converting non-recurring enrollment funding to recurring.

UPCOMING REMINDERS

Brynne Pulver announced several upcoming events and opportunities, including the welcome back luncheon, All Southern Conference Staff award nominations, Chancellor's Cup golf tournament, and Janet B Royster Memorial Staff scholarship fund, encouraging staff participation and applications.

- **Welcome Back Luncheon:** The welcome back luncheon will be held Tuesday, August 11th, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM at Moran Commons Fountain View Dining Hall, with Staff Senate members present at a table.
- **Staff Awards and Scholarships:**

- Applications for the All-Southern Conference Staff award are available, recognizing significant impact by faculty and staff. The deadline for the All-Southern Conference Staff Award nominations is August 31, 2026.
- The Janet B Royster Memorial Stat scholarship fund opens August 15th and closes September 30th, offering \$1,000 for professional development.
- **Chancellor's Cup Golf Tournament:** The Chancellor's Cup golf tournament will take place September 29th, with UNCG sponsoring two teams, a Chancellor's Team and a Staff Team. If you're interested in playing on the staff team, please email staffsenate@uncg.edu

Staff Feedback and Communication Channels: Brynne Pulver encouraged staff to share their concerns and ideas for the Senate and university by submitting feedback through a QR code or the home page on the Staff Senate website.

The meeting was adjourned by Brynne Pulver , Staff Senate Chair. 10:53

SENATOR ATTENDANCE

P = in-person; V = virtual; A = absent

Brynne Pulver	P
Kara Milton	P
Adrian Williams	P
Scott Wilkens	P
Shannon Lovett	A
Carla Wilson	P
Albert Sandoval	P
Alex Hauer	P
April Harris	P
Ashleigh Benoit	P
Ashley O'Donnell	P
Audrey Sage	P
Britt Flannigan	P
Cara Arena	P
Cathy Church	P
Charlie Birkner	P
Dee Dee Carter	A
Elizabeth Durning	P
Ephraim Brownlee	P
Erin Price-Erwin	P
Gaypeart Peralta	P
Heather Emmons	P
James Goins	P
Jane-Marie Joyce	P
Jazmyn Alston	P
Jenna Tucker	V
Kammy Jefferson	A
Katie Condit-Jang	P
Ketevan Mkheidze	P
Kimberly Mazingo	P
Larry Darling	V

Liz Torres Melendez	V
Maris Jones	V
Mark Silverthorne	V
Melissa Johnson	A
Michele Cheek	V
Michelle Sternecker	V
Mike Ackerman	P
Mohammad Khan	P
Nancy Brown	V
Nathan Myers	P
Nick Lewis	V
Robert McCance	P
Tracie Cunningham	V
Valeria Caviness	A
Vijayashree Nagappa	P