

# East Tennessee State University

## Staff Senate

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### Meeting Agenda

**Date:** March 9, 2026

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Location:** Culp Center 311

**Facilitator:** Cody Morelock, Staff Senate President

### Agenda Overview

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Guest Speaker
  - a. Jessica Wang, Student Academic Success Working Group
3. Approval of Previous Minutes
  - a. [February](#) Approvals
4. Information Items
  - a. President's Report
  - b. Treasurer's Report
  - c. Committee Updates
5. Old Business & Follow Ups
6. New Business
7. Announcements, *What is on your mind?*
8. Adjourn

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### Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026

2:33 PM – 3:33 PM

#### 1. Call to Order

President Morelock called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. President Morelock confirmed the Zoom participants could hear the audio.

#### 2. Introduction of Guest Speaker

President Morelock introduced Rachel Barnett and Samantha Hunt from the Mary V. Jordan Center. Rachael Barnett serves as the Jordan Center Director and Samantha Hunt serves as the Jordan Center Assistant Director.

The presenters introduced themselves and shared an overview of the Jordan Center staff, primarily composed of Student Success Specialists. The mission of the Jordan Center is to provide comprehensive one-on-one student support focused on removing barriers, investigating student challenges at a deeper level, and connecting students with appropriate campus resources.

Student success data shared by Barnett and Hunt include approximately 206 students were served during Fall 2025, and approximately 80% of the served students were retained into Spring 2026.

Barnett and Hunt also shared information related to the Horizon Scholars, full Pell Grant recipients with Hope Scholarship eligibility, and the Passport Scholars, full Pell Grant recipients without Hope Scholarship eligibility.

Bucs Academy, a summer bridge program established in 2018, is designed to support first-time freshmen prior to the start of their fall semester. Extended summer experiences are planned for July and August, and include a for-credit component, as well as an LLC housing component. Additionally, the QUEST Program, established in 2006, begins again in August 2026, allowing early move-in experiences for first-time freshman.

Barnett and Hunt shared the creation of a peer mentorship program, pairing NASPA-certified peer mentors with incoming Jordan Scholar students.

The Nicholas Academy is formed with a focus on leadership and accountability development.

Barnett and Hunt reviewed the referral process, noting that students are frequently referred to the Jordan Center by other campus offices, but walk-ins are

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encouraged and reiterating that no student is ever turned away. Common student challenges include,

- Limited knowledge of college
- Financial aid misunderstandings
- Academic readiness
- Mental health concerns
- Personal challenges

The Jordan Center collaborates closely with the Dean of Students, CFAA, Financial Aid, Academic Advising, Counseling Center, and Bucky's Pantry.

Senator Roach asked about expedited assistance options for students needing urgent financial support. Ms. Barnett noted that the Center frequently connects students with the Dean of Students Office in such cases.

Senator Fulkerson asked how Staff Senate members could assist. Ms. Barnett encouraged continued referrals and noted potential future mentorship opportunities.

Senator Crigger shared that Follett provides textbook scholarships that are sometimes underutilized and noted ongoing conversations regarding improved utilization of those funds.

### 3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

President Morelock presented the January minutes for consideration. No corrections were needed. Senator Canter made a motion to approve the January minutes, and the motion was seconded by Senator Finney. The motion carried, and the January minutes were approved.

### 4. **Information Items**

#### **President's Report**

Due to time constraints, President Morelock announced he will send his updates to the senate via email. The President's Report is provided below under *Supporting Documents & Reminders*

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Senator Canter provided updated account balances –

- Staff Senate Main Account: \$9,760.58
- Staff Senate Awards Account: \$18,000.00
- Staff Senate Holiday: \$632.44
- CBC Account: \$681.25

President Morelock and Senator Bishop expressed concerns about the CBC fund's limited resources and suggested repurposing it for the Employee Assistance Fund, which

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has more financial capacity. Both President Morelock and Senator Bishop noted staff senate should maintain representation on the EAF committee.

### **Committee Updates**

Senator Hutchinson provided an update from the Awards Committee,

- The nomination window is open from February 16 – March 22, with both digital and paper nominations begin accepted
- Senators are encouraged to distribute flyers to promote nominations
- The awards webpage is updated with additional details
- Vice President Albarado created and distributed promotional material

### **5. Old Business**

President Morelock divided senators into small groups to discuss the campus Hopes, Aspirations, and Concerns survey. All collected feedback will be compiled and shared with President Noland.

### **6. New Business**

No new business was presented for discussion.

### **7. Announcements, What is on your mind?**

None.

### **8. Adjourn**

Vice President Albarado made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Senator Canter. The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.