

East Tennessee State University

Staff Senate

Meeting Agenda

Date: October 13, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: ZOOM

Facilitator: Cody Morelock, Staff Senate President

Agenda Overview

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
 - a. [August](#) and [September](#) Approvals
3. Information Items
 - a. President's Report
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - c. Committee Updates
4. Old Business & Follow Ups
5. New Business
 - a. Updated Holiday Drive Plan
6. Announcements, *What is on your mind?*
 - a. Reminders for Holiday Lights, Fac/Staff Senate/SGA Reception
7. Adjourn

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Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2025
2:34 PM – 3:10 PM

1. Call to Order

President David Finney called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. in Culp Center 311 with some Senators joining via Zoom.

2. Attendance

Members present: Kari Albarado, Joe Bidwell, Dan Bishop, Vanessa Canter, William Cate, Rachel Colwell, Jennifer Crigger, O.J. Early, David Finney, Joy Fulkerson, Cody Greene, Cody Henson, Suzy Hooven, Ethan Hutchison, Rachel Kellogg, James Lively, Crystal Maupin, Eli Montana, Cody Morelock, Stefanie Murphy, Donna Nelson-Barnes, Ryan Parvin, Debbie Roach, Katie Sellers, Brayton Siddell, Jr., Aneida Skeens, Amy Slaughter, Jessimine Strauss, Elizabeth Thomas-Joseph.

Members absent: Kimberly Ferrell, Brooke Garland, Wendy Guinn, Jenny Lockmiller, Skylar Moore, Melanie Peters, Ben Smith (excused), Jeremy Watson.

3. Minutes

President Finney noted that the June minutes had not been shared prior to this meeting for consideration. Senator Strauss made a motion to table the minutes review, and the motion was seconded by Senator Hooven. The motion carried. There was no discussion.

4. Welcome to New Senators

President Finney extended a welcome to the newly elected Senators attending as guests during today's meeting. New Senator terms will begin in September.

5. Nominations for Executive Officers

President Finney provided an overview description of the Bylaws and procedures to elect Executive Officers for the 2025-2026 term, followed by a summary of each role. He announced that Vice President Morelock will assume the position of President in September leaving open the positions for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-large for nominations, and the Committee on Elections had requested nominations ahead of this meeting.

As Chair of the Committee on Elections, Senator Thomas-Joseph presented the current nominees as follows:

- Senator Kari Albarado for Vice President
- Senator Will Cate for Secretary

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- Senator Vanessa Canter for Treasurer
- Senators Brooke Garland and Aneida Skeens for Member-at-large

Senator Thomas-Joseph then called for any additional nominations to these officer positions from the floor. Senator Henson nominated Senator Hutchinson for Vice President, and Senator Hutchinson declined the nomination and was not added to the ballot. There were no additional nominations for Secretary or Treasurer. Senator Hutchinson nominated Senator Fulkerson for Member-at-large, and she accepted the nomination and was added to the ballot. Senator Thomas-Joseph acknowledged that the races for Vice President, Secretary and Treasure are all no-contest and will not be presented on the electronic ballot. The electronic ballot for the Member-at-large race will be distributed electronically tomorrow and be available for a period of two weeks. There were no questions presented about this process.

President Finney congratulated the incoming slate of officers before moving on to his report.

6. President's Report

President Finney shared the following updates from recent University Council and Executive Committee meetings:

- University Council included an update from Athletic Director, Dr. Sander regarding Athletics as well as a positive enrollment report from Dr. Sherlin, VP for Student Life and Enrollment and Dr. Chappell, AVP for Institutional Research, indicating enrollment is to be up year-over-year by more than 350 students. They announced that ETSU will likely see a record-breaking freshman class of more than 2200 students ahead of the fee drop date. Additionally, residence halls are at maximum capacity with more than 100 over flow students being placed in hotels for the start of the semester.
- Dr. King, VP for Information Technology and Lori Erickson, VP for HR provided an update on a number of items including Voyager transition, noting that Windows 10 will no longer be supported soon and ITS is testing an AI tool. The Huron consulting contract has been extended through October for continued support with Voyager. Lori also encourage staff to utilize Teams for meetings and requests for assistance.
- President Finney announced that absences must be submitted in Voyager, not just saved, to appropriately reflect in leave balances and payroll and that holidays are to manually entered going forward. He also announced that the email notification feature of Voyager has been disabled with no date for resolution.
- He shared that Dr. Noland announced that two appointments have been made to the Board of Trustees by Lt. Governor McNally, including Trustee Dorothy Grisham

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returning for another 6-year term and former state Senator Jon Lundberg. Two additional appointments are forthcoming from Speaker Sexton.

- President Finney also shared that Dr. Noland noted the uncertainty at the federal level and offered assurances that he is keeping an eye on it.
- President Finney echoed Dr. Noland and also extended his sincere appreciation to all Facilities and Grounds staff for their commitment and hard work to keep our campus looking great and running well.
- President Finney announced that Move-in Day is August 20th, and volunteers are needed to assist. He directed anyone interested to reach out to him or others for information.
- He finished the report with a summary of the discussion between the Executive Committee and Dr. Noland earlier today including items related to enrollment, Voyager transition, readiness of the new Robertson and Mary V. Jordan Centers, and 3rd party custodial services. He made a call for questions, and there were none.

7. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Canter provided the Treasurer's Report of current financials. There was no discussion.

8. Committee Reports

Vice President Morelock provided a brief update that the Staff Concerns Committee is scheduled to meet this week to review updates to the website and communications. There were no other reports provided.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Announcements

- President Finney provided brief farewell remarks and extended gratitude as outgoing President of Staff Senate.
- Senator Fulkerson announced that this is the last meeting for Secretary Katie Sellers and extended appreciation for her service.

12. Adjournment

Senator Henson made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Treasurer Siddell. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2025

2:30 PM – 3:05 PM

Senators Present: Kari Albarado, Joe Bidwell, Dan Bishop, Vanessa Canter, William Cate, Jennifer Crigger, OJ Early, David Finney, Joy Fulkerson, Brooke Garland, Wendy Guinn, Cody Henson, Suzy Hooven, Rachel Kellogg, James Lively, Jenny Lockmiller, Crystal Maupin, Eli Montana, Cody Morelock, Stefanie Murphy, Donna Nelson-Barnes, Gina Osborne, Ryan Parvin, Melanie Peters, Debbie Roach, Rusty Sells, Brayton Siddell, Amy Slaughter, Benjamin Smith, Jessamine Strauss, Liz Thomas-Joseph
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Guests: B. Dye

Absent: Sharon Barger, Alycia Birchfield, Rachel Colwell, Kim Ferrell, Archie Fortney, Ethan Hutchinson, Skylar Moore, Aneida Skeens, Nox Tylmarande, Jeremy Watson

1. **Call to Order**

President Morelock called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. President Morelock extended congratulations on all newly elected Senators and the Executive Committee. He also thanked all returning Senators for their continued service.

President Morelock asked Senators to meet/greet and mingle for 15 minutes to kick-off the first Senate session.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

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

President Morelock noted the August minutes will be distributed next week, with 2 late edits from Senator Strauss.

3. **Information Items**

President Morelock reviewed Staff Senate committees, with an ask for Senators to review available committees and relay their placement preferences to President Morelock and Vice President Albarado by EOD September 12, 2025.

President Morelock shared expectations for all Senators, with a focus on proactive service, support, and encouragement towards fellow Senators and staff members.

President Morelock reported updates from University Council -

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- *Athletics Update* – Tennessee Tech University will become a member of the Southern Conference (SoCon) effective July 1, 2026.
Football season tickets sales increased for the current season. Total football season ticket sales are approx 250.
- *Enrollment Update* – Post-census enrollment numbers increased from Fall 2024 in the following areas: First-time Freshman enrollment (+146), Transfer enrollment (+2), and Dual enrollment (+72).
Total undergraduate enrollment is 11,260.
- *Financial Aid and Admissions Update* – Transfer students now have access to APS aid through the admissions process.
September is Free Application Month; the application fee is waived for Tennessee residents. Senator Strauss clarified that the waived application fee does not pertain to Graduate applications.
ETSU is participating in a direct admission program launching in Fall 2025. The DAP will admit any student within eligibility requirements to ETSU and other participating institutions when applicants complete the Tennessee Promise Scholarship application. ETSU will provide an outline of potential financial aid with acceptance materials.
- *General Campus Update* – With the upcoming 1-year milestone since Hurricane Helene, President Morelock reminded the Senate that the newly relocated and renamed [Tipton-Ashe Gallery @ The Courthouse](#) (formerly Tipton Gallery) is showcasing [Layered, Woven & Pierced: Appalachian Soul A Year On](#), curated by Lyn Govette.
 - Tipton-Ashe Gallery @ The Courthouse is located at 401 Ashe St, Johnson City.
- President Morelock and Senator Fulkerson discussed [Project Welcome Home](#) as an upcoming service opportunity during [Founder's Week](#).

4. **Old Business & Follow Ups**

None.

5. **New Business**

President Morelock shared a scheduling conflict impacting Staff Senate's November meeting. President Morelock recommended to reschedule the Staff Senate meeting for November 10 at 3:30 p.m. virtual attendance only. No issues were raised.

6. **Announcements, *What is on your mind?***

- President Morelock shared several important dates and service opportunities for Senators to consider -

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- September 20 – ETSU vs. Elon football game showcasing Executive Teams from Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government Association on the field
 - Senator Bishop shared that a Purple Heart Ceremony would also take place during the ETSU vs. Elon football game.
- October 7 – ETSU Remembers, the annual ceremony honoring the students and employees who passed away during the previous year. ETSU Remembers begins at 10:00 a.m. at the ETSU Carillon.
- November 10 – Quilts of Valor ceremony, hosted by Sherrod Library in Sherrod Library Student Commons (first floor) at 2:00 p.m.
- **November 17** - ETSU Holiday Lights Celebration, hosted at the ETSU Alumni Plaza **beginning at 5:30 p.m.**
- November 20 - Shared Governance Holiday Reception, hosted in the Tindall Lobby of the Martin Center for the Arts from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- December 8 – ETSU Pancake Breakfast in the Dining Hall at 9:00 p.m.
- President Morelock shared a reminder that the next [Board of Trustees](#) meeting is Friday, September 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the East Tennessee Room, Culp Center.
- Senator Bishop shared the 2025 Veteran's Day Reception is on November 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Veterans Memorial Plaza.
- Senator Bishop shared the ETSU vs. The Citadel football game on November 22 serves as the season's Military Appreciation game.
- Senator Fulkerson shared that October 25 is ETSU Homecoming.
 - Homecoming Week begins on Saturday, October 18 with [Dula Day of Service](#).
- Senator Strauss shared The Graduate School is hosting an Open House on September 16 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in their newly renovated and relocated residence in Sherrod Library Suite 353.

7. **Adjourn**

Senator Murphy made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Senator Strauss. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.