



**I. Call to Order**

President David Finney called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**II. Attendance**

Members present: Kari Albarado, Joe Bidwell, Vanessa Canter, William Cate, Rachel Colwell, Jennifer Crigger, O.J. Early, Kimberly Ferrell, David Finney, Joy Fulkerson, Brooke Garland, Cody Greene, Wendy Guinn, Cody Henson, Suzy Hooven, Kathi Horne, Ethan Hutchison, Rachel Kellogg, James Lively, Jenny Lockmiller, Candy Massey, Crystal Maupin, Cody Morelock, Stefanie Murphy, Donna Nelson-Barnes, Ryan Parvin, Melanie Peters, Debbie Roach, Katie Sellers, Brayton Siddell, Jr., Aneida Skeens, Amy Slaughter, Ben Smith, Jessimine Strauss, Elizabeth Thomas-Joseph.

Members absent: Dan Bishop, Skylar Moore, Jeremy Watson.

**III. Minutes**

President Finney presented the December meeting minutes for consideration. Senator Strauss made motion to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Senator Peters. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

**IV. President's Report**

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

- Custodial staff are being supplemented by outside contractors in certain campus facilities due to difficulties in sustaining the labor force needed to provide this crucial service to campus.
- The Voyager project is on track and going well, and Dr. Noland is traveling to University of Tennessee, Knoxville to learn about their institution's recent experience with implementing the same software system.
- Human Resources is still working towards changes to the compensation plan, which includes updates to job families and market ranges. Additional communications around these changes are expected to be communicated broadly in the coming weeks.
- The TN Legislature begins a special session next week, which may delay the upcoming budget hearings and other related work.



## Staff Senate

January 13, 2025  
2:30 p.m. – 2:57 p.m.

- Stone Hall renovation is underway with Yoakley Hall to begin later this year, and enrollment is good with continued high demand for on campus housing.
- Senators are encouraged to participate in the upcoming Emergency Preparedness training.
- Dr. Noland will be our guest speaker at the February Staff Senate meeting, and senators can send questions or requests for information to President Finney to compile for Dr. Noland.

### **V. Treasurer's Report**

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

### **VI. Committee Reports**

President-Elect Morelock opened the floor for Committee Reports.

1. Senator Early, Chair of Website and Communications Committee, provided an update on the recent work to enhance the Staff Senate website and add head shots for each current Senator. Senators encouraged to review and send updated head shots or information to O.J. as needed.
2. Senator Horne, Chair of Staff Concerns Committee, noted the committee's work related to the Ombuds Proposal and a recent concern related to use of scooters on campus. She also shared the committee's desire enhance visibility and highlights its work on behalf of staff.

There were no other committee reports at this time.

### **VII. Announcements**

President Finney again shared the planned reinstatement of the Staff Senator of the Year award, which had not been awarded in recent years. He noted that he would accept nominations with a plan to select and honor a Staff Senator that served during December 2023-December 2024. He also reiterated that senators should send their head shots to Senator Early for the website.

### **VIII. Old Business**

None



**IX. New Business**

President Finney summarized the Ombuds Proposal to be sent to Dr. Noland and asked for questions. There was discussion among the Senate related to capacity and balancing engagement with Human Resources for staff support services. Many senators shared support for this proposal and enthusiasm for Staff Senate sharing this broadly with staff once its approved. There was a motion to approve the Ombuds Proposal and share it with Dr. Noland. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

**X. Adjournment**

Senator Murphy made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Senator Horne. The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.