

# East Tennessee State University

## Staff Senate

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### Meeting Minutes

Date: September 8, 2025

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.

Location: Culp Center Room 311

Facilitator: Cody Morelock, Staff Senate President

Scribe: William Cate, Staff Senate Secretary

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

1. Call to Order
  - a. Welcome new Senators!
  - b. Meet and Greet
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
  - a. June and August Approvals
3. Information Items
  - a. Brief Onboarding for new Senators
  - b. President's Report
  - c. Committee Reports
4. Old Business & Follow Ups
5. New Business
6. Announcements, *What is on your mind?*
7. Adjourn

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### Meeting Notes

#### 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 -

- *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.

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- *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 -
  - 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.

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- 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.

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### Action Items Summary

<u>Task</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Senators relay committee placement preferences to President Morelock and Vice President Albarado	Individual Senators	9/12/2025

### Supporting Documents & Reminders

[Staff Senate President's Presentation September 2025.pdf](#)

[Link to Board of Trustees Meeting Materials & Livestream](#)