

LSUHSC Staff Senate meeting minutes January 13 2026, 2 pm Lions Eye Center 632 and Zoom

Senators present included:

School of Allied Health

Angelica Bruno

Pam Galindo

Wilburt Johnson

School of Dentistry

Michele Holmes

Michael Boutte

School of Graduate Studies

Cody Palazzolo - President Elect

School of Medicine

Brandi Donelon

Treva Durr- At Large

Cecilia Estep

Amy Gray

Louie Schneider

School of Nursing

Brian “Nic” Manuel

Dusty Pigg

School of Public Health

Toya D. Shanklin

Division of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Troylyn Billew

Rashantis Gray

Tonika Lockhart Mackie

Dale Prince

Kresenda Raasch

Ivy Strong

Divisions of the Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance + Chancellor Admin

Kyle Walker- Secretary

Jessica Riche

Registered proxies included:

Patricia Oates- President (Cody Palazzolo, proxy)

Courtney Martin (Toya D. Shanklin, proxy)

Call the Meeting to Order at 2:01 time by Senator Cody Palazzolo

Invited Speakers / Special Presentations

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Announcement- Tonika Lockhart-Mackie

- Dr. Leslie Birke stepped down as Director, Animal Care and is working part-time until she retires.
- Adam Caro is the new Director of Animal Care.
- BOS approved LSU Health New Orleans to offer the MPH online to students in the dual DVM/MPH program and MSW/MPH program Submitted to BOR, waiting on approval
- On-Boarding Non-LSUHSCNO Students Whose Academic Credit is Awarded by Their Home Institution policy has been approved and will be posted to VCAA website this week
- We will be appointing faculty to several committees/taskforces for the merger.
- Committee list and descriptions have been approved and will be posted this week
- VCAA is working with LSU on SACSCOC substantive change.

Approval of Minutes from November 2025 Staff Senate Meeting

- Senator Kyle Walker motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jessica Riche and seconded.

President's Report

- Refer to updates under Old Business

Committee Reports

- Communications – Chair: Courtney Martin. Co-Chair- Kyle Walker
 - No update
- Community Engagement and Development- Chair: Patty Oates

- King Cake reception February 10 at 2pm Lions Eye Center 130
- Working on a Mardi Gras t-shirt
- Elections – Chair: Patty Oates
 - No update
- Staff Advocacy and Retention- Chair: Michele Holmes
 - Read September 25, 2025 meeting minutes regarding compensation, equity adjustments, and related HR processes for both unclassified and classified staff. The session included HR representatives (Jill Fragoso and Sara Schexnayder) with a strong emphasis on transparency, process clarity, and inclusivity, especially regarding classified staff perspectives.
- 7. Will work to create a 1-page checklist for campus safety.
- 8. Old Business
 - Committees- (research; student etc) are being established to execute transition
 - Working on a tuition reimbursement program for spouses and children. Meeting in February. Proposing a tuition discount of \$25 per credit hour (matches McNeese University).
 - Looking forward to addressing a tuition discount for employees.
 - AED placements are determined by Senior leadership. The protocol is to call 911 and let the police implement AED's. AED's are in all the police vehicles.
- 9. New Business -Updates from LSUSHC Committees and Schools
 - a. Faculty Senate- Michael Boutte
 - Dr. Poche approved the reorganization for Basic Science
 - Revising bylaws

Adjourned 2:35