

**Staff Senate Meeting Agenda**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.**  
**Delta Center 201 and Zoom**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Routine Business
  - a. Meeting Minutes
  - b. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Guest Speaker: Tara Thomason, Director of Annual Giving
- V. New Business: SGOC Proposal
- VI. Announcements and Reminders

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- I. Call to Order: Madeline Ragland, President at 2:00 p.m.
  
- II. Roll Call: Nikki Adams, Autumn Anderson, Himaja Balakrishnan, Catherine Beaver, Sandra Bramblett, Perdeta Bush, Angela Daniels, Robby Davenport, Tracy Finch, Pat Glascock, Pam Graham, Whitley Green, Deanna Harris, Melissa Jackson, Christina Kostick, Kelli Listenbee, Lana Martin, Jarrod Mayfield, Porsha McGregor, Prathima Pattada, Christine Perry, Madeline Ragland, Lisa Reeves, Kelly Sabin, Natalie Turney, Alyssa Wells
  
- III. Routine Business
  - a. Meeting Minutes – Alyssa Wells motioned to approve the December 14 minutes. Pat Glascock seconded. All approved.
  - b. Treasurer’s Report – Sandra Bramblett
  
- IV. Guest Speaker
  - a. Dr. Todd Shields, Chancellor

Vet School Discussion

- Recap on veterinary school announcement; A-State will plan to follow a distributive model. In their third year of school, students will be distributed into the state (first and foremost) to complete clinicals. Arkansas has a real need for veterinarians at this time, as many vets are overwhelmed and/or looking to retire. A typical out-of-state vet school costs \$80,000 per year, with in-state at around \$50,000. We are going to be able to beat that and emphasize admitting in-state students. Looking to take 50/50 in-state and out-of-state students. Without the vet hospital and following this distributive model, this will greatly cut down on the costs. Most vet schools with hospitals will lose money.
- Question from a Senator: We were very excited when NYIT came to campus—are we going to have some type of “agreement” for pre-vet students that they will be guaranteed an interview, given preference, recruit, etc.? Chancellor Shields is not sure what that looks like yet, but would love to see that.

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- Will students complete paid internships? Many times, yes. It is much like a medical student completing residency.
- Is there a ballpark timeline idea of when the first class may happen? Chancellor Shields would like to see us admitting students by Fall 2026.
- We do not have to have a facility set up by the time we have our first class, because the first year is classroom experience only. Second year will be when we need to have labs built. Looking at potentially building on the other side of Red Wolf on the farm.
- Question/Comment from a Senator: What will the faculty and staffing look like? I think we should invest more in academic advising to be able to invest in our students early on. We will be needing to hire outside faculty and staff.
- Arkansas State is unique—we have great first and second-year retention rates, but yet we have a 53% graduation rate. We want to work to figure out what is happening after that. With the demographic “cliff” that’s coming, we are going to have 5-10% less 18-year-olds to coming to college. Employers are also going to go after high school-aged students to convince them to bypass going to college. Many people might get a junior-level internship and decide to leave in order to go ahead and start their careers.
- Question from a Senator: Will there be scholarships offered for the vet school? That is something we can look into. We have had a number of Honors students who have gone on to vet school and they have received some sorts of scholarship money or out-of-state waiver.
- There may still be interlibrary loan needs, but the library budget is factored into that.

Other Comments

- Based off prior conversations at a recent Civil Discourse lecture: The sentiment was shared that recent campus conversations have been appreciated because we have been having civil discourse amongst campus. Chancellor Shields

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believes that “No one is smarter than all of us.” Conversation ensued about how it is important to be able to speak up; while fear may be a short-term way to get things done, long-term fear may cause burnout, frustration, feelings of just “making it,” and just surviving. That is not what Chancellor Shields wants the campus culture to be, which is a reason why we have been having these campus conversations. It is very important to feel the freedom to be able to speak your mind, even if you disagree.

- Chancellor Shields discussed the importance of working together with people who don’t think like you—in the past, he has participated in groups in which the people who all thought the same didn’t survive, while the people who thought very differently did much better. To do better with enrollment, finances, and overall university health, it’s important to have these difficult conversations. Transparency is key and values are incredibly important.

V. New Business: SGOC Proposal

- Proposal to reduce 45 upper level hours down to 40. There has been an increase in appeals in the last few years. This throws it back to the state and program level-hours.
- You cannot petition to graduate with less than 120 hours
- When will this go into effect if it goes through? Typically when we have something like this, there will be a policy change and we work for the benefit of the student. There may not be a way to identify every student who has 40 upper-level hours, but as appeals come through, we will know. It would be effective immediately, and there will be no curriculum change.

VI. Announcements and Reminders

- a. Next Meeting: February 15, 2023

Porsha McGregor motioned to adjourn, and Sandra Bramblett seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



**Staff Senate Treasurer's Report**  
**January 31, 2023**

<u>University E &amp; G Accounts</u>		<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Debit/ Credit</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
<b>Staff Senate</b> 110000-120008-1630	Beginning Balance FY22	\$2,140.00		
	Sign Shop-name tags, desk plate/holder		(120.00)	
	Elite Graphics--SS polo shirts (pending)		(209.95)	
				<u>\$1,810.05</u>
<hr/>				
<b>Santa's Wolves Agency Account</b> 930002-390000-5000	Balance Forward	\$ 3,657.39		
				<u>\$3,657.39</u>
<hr/>				
<b>ASU Foundation Accounts</b>				
<b>Santa's Wolves</b> 200067	Balance Forward	\$13,653.69		
	Payroll deposits for December		406.60	
	Incorrect posting date		(207.46)	
				<u>\$13,852.83</u>
<hr/>				
<b>Staff Senate Discretionary</b> 200069	Balance Forward	\$20,260.48		
	Transfer to Education Assistance		(475.63)	
				<u>\$19,784.85</u>
<hr/>				
<b>Staff Senate Education Assistance</b> 230139	Balance Forward	\$2,524.37		
	December Contributions		41.64	
	Discretionary transfer-awards		475.63	
				<u>\$3,041.64</u>

# Shared Governance Proposal Review Process

**\*Official Use Only\***

Proposal Name:

Date Received:

Is proposal a SGOC issue?    Yes        No

Responsible Committee:

Type of review:

Faculty Handbook Issue:    Yes        No

Staff Handbook Issue:    Yes        No

Constituency Groups:    Faculty Senate

Chair's Council

Staff Senate

SGA

Dean's Council

GSC

	Expedited (7 Business Days)	Full (39 Business Days)	Extended (93 Business Days)
SGOC establish disposition		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC forward to responsible committees and SGCs		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGCs send comments to responsible committee		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Responsible committee prepares final draft and sends to SGOC		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC sends final draft to constituency groups for final up/down vote		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Constituency groups vote and notify SGOC		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC tally votes and sends final report		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Chancellor review and response		10 days	10 days
		Due by:	Due by:

Notes:

Final Status:

Date:

SGOC Proposal - Academic Standing for December Interim (Winter Session)

- I. Date: 1/25/23
- II. Sponsoring Constituent: UEAPC
- III. Statement of the Issue: Imposing Academic Standing for December Interim (Winter Session) Interim possess a problem for Spring enrollment and financial aid processing.
- IV. Proposal: Defer the application of academic standing for December Interim (Winter Session) coursework to Spring semester outcome. Grade point average totals will appear at the end of the Interim Session courses. Academic standing will read 'Waived'.
- V. Rational for Proposal: With the increased enrollment in December Interim (Winter Session), it has become evident that applying A-State's academic standing policy and regulations to this short part of term is problematic for several reasons. Foremost, the session ends one day before the start of the Spring term. For this reason, grades are not submitted until the start of the term and academic standing is not updated until after students have already started attending their Spring classes. There is not sufficient time to identify and communicate with students with poor academic standing. Therefore, students on academic suspension following December Interim (Winter Session) are dropped from classes for which they are already attending and have been charged. In addition, some students have purchased course materials that cannot be refunded. This policy is also a problem for financial aid because the December Interim (Winter Session) term is considered part of the spring term for financial aid processing.

Since enrollment in December Interim (Winter Session) is limited to four weeks in length and a maximum of 6 credits, the condensed experience does not warrant the same policy consideration given to a 15-week traditional semester. Finally, December Interim (Winter Session) is an important student retention option for students who need last minute additional hours for graduation, scholarships, or GPA purposes. Whereas, imposing academic standing policy could be a barrier to their continued enrollment because of the limited hours a student can take during an interim. A low earned grade in a few credits could put a student on academic probation or suspension.

For these reasons, the swift turnaround of December Interim (Winter Session) brings inherent problems for academic standing during this part-of-term and should be waived. Instead, academic standing for December Interim (Winter Session) should read 'Waived' and outcomes should be part of Spring semester academic standing as it relates to cumulative g.p.a. and fall as the previous standing.

Supplemental Information:

- December Interim course load is counted with spring (not fall) for financial aid purposes only.
- Financial aid for spring can be used to pay for December Interim tuition charges.
- Students on a current suspension would not be eligible to attend December Interim.

*December Interim Enrollment*

Year	Enr.
2017	32
2018	33
2019	2
2020	233
2021	195
2022	247

- VI. Type of review (i.e., expedited, full, or extended)
- The committee recommends expedited review.