



November 21, 2025
McCandless Hall Auditorium

Present: Jerry Stephens (Presiding Officer), D.J. Doorenbos (Secretary), Lauren Blacklidge, Elizabeth Bowden, Kathryn Doaty, Magen Johnson, Jennifer Mares, Gabrielle Whitney McGraw, Victoria Mould, Tricia Oleyte, Morgan Stanford

1. **Call to order** – Meeting called to order by Jerry Stephens at 10:00am
2. **Approval of the agenda** – Agenda was sent earlier this week for review but was not approved prior to meeting. Motion to approve agenda with New Business items removed Gabrielle Whitney McGraw. Second by Tricia Oleyte. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of minutes** – Minutes for the October monthly meeting. Motion to approve by Victoria Mould. Second by Jennifer Mares. Motion carried.
4. **Senior Staff updates**
 - No updates.
5. **Committee Reports**
 - Constitution & Bylaws – Lauren Blacklidge
 - Working to go forward with review for changes.
 - Currently have 3 members on the committee but still looking for more volunteers.
 - Elections – Gabrielle Whitney McGraw
 - Gabrielle is working with Jerry Stephens and Kim Dunnavant on the approval process for changes to the elections.
 - Victoria Mould has volunteered as secretary.
 - Currently looking for additional Staff Senators to participate on the committee.
 - Events/Fundraising – Magen Johnson and Elizabeth Bowden
 - Magen Johnson and Elizabeth Bowden reported on the Fall Fundraiser held October 28th from 11:00am-1:00pm.



STAFF SENATE

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

November 21, 2025
McCandless Hall Auditorium

1. Raised \$900 for the Emergency Student Assistance Fund.
 2. Keith Ferguson was present to share thanks for the donation and talk about emergency fund process.
 - a. Keeps a minimum \$50,000.
 - b. 41 students assisted so far.
 - c. Have used Walmart gift cards in the past but have partnered with Redstone Federal Credit Union to have more widely available cards.
- The spring fundraiser will be a carnation sale with candy-gram options.
 1. A station will be set up to make for easier pickup and delivery.
 2. Free coffee available to those who bring a mug.
 3. \$2 per item and bundle available.
 4. There were two groups proposed for the fall fundraising cause, so discussion included having Make-A-Wish be the spring fundraiser cause since the Emergency Student Assistance Fund was selected for the fall.
 - a. Elizabeth Bowden made a motion to select Make-A-Way Foundation as our cause for the spring fundraiser. Kathryn Doaty seconded. Motion carried.
- Professional Development – Kathryn Doaty
 - The committee held a brainstorming session and worked up three proposed ideas:
 1. A spin-off of the Mental Health Awareness Submit held by the Active Minds club to have a designated space/time for staff in spring.
 2. A chair yoga summer series.



STAFF SENATE

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

November 21, 2025
McCandless Hall Auditorium

3. A speaker around the start of fall term focusing on staff.
 - a. Amber Martinez is currently working on speaker options.
 - The committee encourages all staff to speak with their supervisor about professional development opportunities to use the PD funds.
 - Any staff with feedback or topics relating to potential professional development speakers, events, etc. should reach out to the committee.
 - Staff Mentoring – D.J. Doorenbos
 - Still accepting members for the committee.
 - Plan to have meeting after spring classes begin to discuss structure of program.
 - Recycling - Vacant
 - Pending volunteer for chair position.
 - Jerry Stephens proposed interest in collaborating with the Athens Lions Club to coordinate recycling drop offs to the Jefferson Street recycling center.
6. Old Business
 - No old business.
7. New Business
 - No new business
8. For the Good of the Order
 - Thanksgiving Break
 - Holiday Break
9. Next Regular Meeting – January 16, 2026
10. Adjournment



STAFF SENATE

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

November 21, 2025
McCandless Hall Auditorium

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am. Minutes recorded by D.J. Doorenbos