



STAFF SENATE

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

January 16, 2026

Classroom Building Room 104

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 by Gabrielle Whitney McGraw. Second by Tricia Oleyte. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of minutes** – Minutes for the October monthly meeting. Motion to approve with “Lions Club” changed to “Athens Lions Club” by Victoria Mould. Second by Gabrielle Whitney McGraw. Motion carried with amendments.
4. **Senior Staff updates**
 - Reminder of Board of Trustees meeting today
5. **Committee Reports**
 - Constitution & Bylaws – Lauren Blacklidge
 - Committee meeting soon to review constitution and bylaws.
 - Elections – Gabrielle Whitney McGraw
 - The first Elections Committee meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2026, at 11:00am in the Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center.
 - Only staff senators are eligible to participate in the committee, so Gabrielle encouraged any senator interested to attend the meeting.
 - Events/Fundraising – Magen Johnson and Elizabeth Bowden
 - The flyer will go out today for the carnations and candy Valentine’s Day fundraiser.
 - February 6th is the deadline to order.
 - Pick-up will be February 12th and 13th.
 - The proceeds will go to Make-A-Way Foundation.



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- All orders will be online with option to pay with card online or with cash at the Business Office.
- Professional Development – Kathryn Doaty
 - The Mental Health Awareness Submit collaboration is still in progress.
 - 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.
 - The first professional development series of Mental Health & Wellbeing is underway with yoga sessions with Dana Waldrop.
 - This will be a six-week series.
 - The Professional Development Committee is working with the Events Committee for a staff recognition meeting.
 - Currently inquiring to have Javon Glasgow to present, but there have been other options for consideration.
 - There have been two requests for staff professional development funds.
- Staff Mentoring – D.J. Doorenbos
 - Still accepting members for the committee.
 - The first committee meeting will be January 22nd at 10:00am in Sandridge Student Center Room 126.
 - Jennifer Wolfe is invited to participate due prior experience with mentoring programs.
 - Jennifer is faculty but has agreed to participate to share her knowledge and experience. There were no objections to her participation.
- Recycling - Jerry Stephens
 - Jerry Stephens is meeting with the Athens Lions Club next on January 20th and will propose a partnership between the Athens



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Lions Club and Staff Senate to facilitate a recycling program on campus.

- There must be a coordinated effort within the campus buildings to have recycling pick up from the Athens Lions Club.
- We must review what the recycling center accepts before building a plan.
- Identified key buildings on campus and volunteers to coordinate pick up if the partnership is established:
 1. Sandridge Student Center – Jennifer Mares
 2. Kares Library – Alyson Quinn
 3. Founders Hall – Needs volunteer
- We must be sure that any paper recycled does not include PII (personally identifiable information) to avoid FERPA violations.
- If the Athens Lions Club is interested in a partnership, we will need to further discuss the Staff Senate and the University's involvement in the recycling program.
 1. Would we be able to ask for student organizations or scholarship programs for volunteers?

6. Old Business

- No old business.

7. New Business

- No new business

8. For the Good of the Order

- Welcome to Dr. Hugh Long, representing faculty as Faculty Senate President
- Performance evaluations are coming up soon.

9. Next Regular Meeting – February 20, 2026, at 10:00am

10. Adjournment



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- The meeting was adjourned at 10:37am. Minutes recorded by D.J. Doorenbos