



# STAFF SENATE

## ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

April 17, 2026

McCandless Auditorium

**Present:** Amber Martinez (Senator at Large), D.J. Doorenbos (Secretary), Lauren Blacklidge, Elizabeth Bowden – Proxy Amber Martinez, Kathryn Doaty, Magen Johnson, Jennifer Mares, Gabrielle Whitney McGraw, Victoria Mould, Tricia Oleyte, Morgan Stanford

**Absent:** Jerry Stephens (Presiding Officer)

1. **Call to order** – Meeting called to order by Amber Martinez at 10:00am
2. **Approval of minutes** – Minutes for the March meeting. Motion to approve by Gabrielle Whitney McGraw. Second by Kathryn Doaty. Motion carried.
3. **Senior Staff updates**
  - No update.
4. **Committee Reports**
  - Constitution & Bylaws – Lauren Blacklidge
    - No report.
  - Elections – Gabrielle Whitney McGraw
    - Voting for the John Booty Award is closed, and the recipient confirmed. The recipient will be recognized at the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
      1. Thank you to the Marketing and PR team for assistance with the virtual voting tool.
      2. Jennifer Mares made a motion to approve the purchase of the winner's plaque and flowers to be presented at the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Seconded by Lauren Blacklidge. Motion carried.
      3. The Foundation is awarding the \$100 prize to the winner.
  - Events/Fundraising – Magen Johnson
    - The Staff Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am-12:30pm.



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1. Marketing is providing giveaway items.
  - The Valentine's fundraiser raised a total of \$750 towards the Make-A-Way Foundation.
- Professional Development – Kathryn Doaty
  - Kathryn Doaty made a motion to use Professional Development funds to cover tablecloths for the upcoming Staff Luncheon for an estimated total of \$164.94. Seconded by Morgan Stanford. Motion carried.
  - 1 PD request was submitted and approved this month.
  - The Yoga series will be held in June and July.
    1. See the attached flyer for dates and more information.
  - The Staff Wellness Day is April 23 in the Kares Library.
    1. A donation was made to provide the teas.
    2. This is a spin-off of the Mental Health Summit.
    3. See the attached flyer for more information.
  - The Foundation is covering the Staff Appreciation Luncheon lunch.
  - The Staff Professional Development Committee met earlier this month and discussed a joint professional development event with Advancement, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate.
    1. The event would be June 11 and would bring Vitale Buford to present on Building a Culture of Trust.
    2. The total cost would be \$4,000 with Staff Senate covering \$1,300 from Staff Professional Development funds.
      - a. Morgan Stanford made a motion to proceed with the event and have Staff Senate contribute \$1,300.

Kathryn Doaty seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - The committee is looking to have Alex Duck in September as the possible fall professional development event.



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1. The committee is recommending the topic of coping with and managing stress but will send the list of topics to all senators for review.
  2. The cost would be \$150 per event hour.
  3. There is no motion at this time, but the discussion will continue after senators review topics.
- Staff Mentoring – D.J. Doorenbos
    - Meeting is scheduled for next week but will consult with committee members to see if we need to reschedule due to Staff Wellness Day.
    - If anyone is interested in being a department or division mentor, please reach out to Staff Mentor committee.
  - Recycling - Jerry Stephens
    - No report.
5. Old Business
    - No old business.
  6. New Business
    - No new business
  7. For the Good of the Order
    - National Library Week is next week, and the Kares Library has events scheduled Tuesday – Thursday.
  8. Next Regular Meeting – May 15, 2026, at 10:00am
  9. Adjournment
    - The meeting was adjourned at 10:24am. Minutes recorded by D.J. Doorenbos



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JOIN US FOR A  
**STAFF**  
**APPRECIATION**  
**LUNCHEON**

**APRIL**

**THURSDAY** **30** **11:30<sub>AM</sub> - 12:30<sub>PM</sub>**

**SANDRIDGE BALLROOM**

**MUSIC - DOOR PRIZES - FOOD**



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**DRIFTWOOD**  
*Dragonfly*

BOTANICAL ARTISAN MARKET

# Staff Wellness Day

DISCOVER THE POWER OF MINDFULNESS &  
MEDITATION

with *Michelle Crawford*

- Crystal Singing Bowls Sound Therapy
- Guided Meditation
- Gentle Movements
- Deep Breathing Exercises
- Hot/Cold Tea Bar (pick from Calm the Elf Down, Lord Help Me to Be Smart, Miss Citrus Hibis'kiss, & Lemon Luminous Lift)



**Date & Time:**

April 23, 2026 - 3:00 PM  
KARES Library  
(please arrive 10-15 mins early)



Spots are Limited-  
Register Here!





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# Staff Summer Yoga Series

DISCOVER THE POWER OF MINDFULNESS

with *Dana Waldrop*

## June Sessions

- June 4<sup>th</sup>: Chair Yoga
- June 11<sup>th</sup>: Mat Yoga\*
- June 18<sup>th</sup>: Chair Yoga

**10:00 AM**  
**KARES Library**

## July Sessions

- July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chair Yoga
- July 9<sup>th</sup>: Mat Yoga\*
- July 16<sup>th</sup>: Chair Yoga

\*Bring your own mat if able.  
Limited mats available.

Dana also offers mat yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:00 pm  
@ The LaunchBox downtown!