

**Western New Mexico University
Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
Student Memorial Building Seminar Room
September 2, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Foster.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present: President Foster, Senator Barraza, Senator Castanon, Vice President Johnson, Senator Lee, Senator Medel, Senator Souders, Senator Stone, Senator Calloway

Senators Absent: Senator Blevins, Senator Brown, and Senator Sorells.

Proxies:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Senator Medel and seconded by Senator Lee. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Vice President Johnson. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Foster and Vice President Johnson met with President Cole. They established a monthly meeting time with President Cole to make stronger lines communication. President Foster and Vice President Johnson spoke about salary and benefits. President Foster asked for any committee members to join committees. Special elections will need to be held, as an email has been sent out from Senator Souders to vote. Board of regions are meeting Thursday, September 10th at 6 pm, President Foster is actively taking suggestions.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Johnson stated that they are looking for more participation and to not be shy. We will be hosting General Staff Assembly on Monday, September 14th. October 5th is when homecoming is starting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current account balances were reported as follows:

Supplies and Expenses: \$600

Travel: \$600

Staff Recognition: \$1,208.04, with a monthly \$27.06 for staff recognition.

Staff Development: \$432.60

President Brown noted that these balances would change once the new fiscal year is updated.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

George Tuner. Senator Stone read out loud the recommendation letter that was wrote for George.

The following is the letter; George is the definition of PRIDE. I have witnessed his positive attitude numerous times especially in times a positive attitude is not warranted. He has always been respectful, polite and professional to work with. I have worked with George on numerous occasions where he is always showing genuine care for the work he does and the students he is able to help. I have witnesses him go above and beyond on serval occasions to assist students while helping them with scholarship needs. Regardless of the situation he makes himself available to ensure student inquiries and scholarship needs are taken care of. To ensure our MUSTANGS are still receiving the time and attention they deserve to help them with any needs and ensure their concerns are heard, taken care of and validated.

Senator Calloway presented the awards that George will be receiving. Senator Medel read comments from the zoom chat with compliments. President Foster states that George is a great help when it comes to the E Sports team. President Foster opens the floor for anymore positive compliments for George.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Salary Classifications and Benefits: Still looking for a chair for this committee. President Foster spoke with President Cole about the salary and benefits as it is the highest concern. Meeting went well, as there was a lot of interest in the survey. President Cole will be at the general assembly on September 14th to give a report with Kelly Riddle.

Rules and Ethics: No Report

Elections: Special Elections will run until Friday, September 4th as they are looking in the technical field.

52 **Staff Handbook:** President Foster adjustment creating a handbook for students, will need to have a discussion with
53 the committee.

54 **Assessment:** Looking for an AI committee.

55 **Rewards and Recognition:** Employee of the month is George Turner. Senator Stone stated that if there are any
56 people that want to be in the committee to let both Senator Stone and Senator Calloway know.

57 **Web Presence:** Committee met and bounce some ideas. The committee was thinking of adding a video from senate
58 staff meeting. Trying to get more traffic and staying up to date. President Foster asked if there will be an editor.
59 Senator Lee is talking with Senator Castanon as she has a design degree that could help the committee.

60 **Department Highlights:** No Report

61 **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

62 **Events Committee:** No Report

63 **OLD BUSINESS**

64 President Dean is working with IT to get all of the updated email lists for all of the Senators to allow for open
65 communication.

66 **NEW BUSINESS**

67 Next Tuesday, September 8th, presidential leadership award will be open. The voting widow will be open for three
68 weeks, posted by the end of the week- link and drop form. Connie Rooke was last years previous winner.

69 Saturday, October 10th at 11:30 there will be tailgating at the food ball game prior to the homecoming football
70 game.

71 Hispanic cultural month is this month as the cultural affairs will be hosting different events in celebration. On
72 September 18th cultural affairs will be hosting a guest speaker of their book that is based in storytelling in
73 Albuquerque. They will be hosting a international day of peace- people are encouraged to bring a dish that
74 represents there culture. It will be happening sometime in September, as Senator Medel will send out an email with
75 more information.

76 Vice President Johnson recognizing and thanking faculty members attending the staff senate meeting.

77 President Foster is developing VPI to log in on there personal device thanking the team for working on that.

78 **OPEN FORUM AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

79 **NEXT MEETING**

80 General Assembly will be Monday, September 14th hosted in the Miller Library.

81 The next Staff Senate meeting will be held on October 7th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the SMB Seminar Room or via
82 Zoom.

83 **ADJOURNMENT**

84 A motion to adjourn was made by Vice President Johnson and seconded by Senator Medel. The meeting was
85 adjourned.