

**Western New Mexico University  
Staff Senate Meeting Minutes  
Student Memorial Building Seminar Room  
July 1, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Bart Brown.

**ROLL CALL**

**Senators Present:** Bart Brown, Dori Grinie, Samantha Johnson, Jenny Castanon, James Lee, Dean Foster, Sean Souders, Bobbi Dodson, Brandi Barraza and Izelle Mathis.

**Senators Absent:** Brea Brown and Kathy Sorrells.

**Proxies:** Bre Anne Springer, Susan Villines and Maggie Calloway.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by James Lee. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by James Lee and seconded by Bobbi Dodson. The motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Brown thanked all Staff Senate members for their service and reflected on his time serving as President.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Vice President Dori Grinie thanked everyone for their hard work. She reminded staff that while it is comfortable to remain within their individual departments, Staff Senate accomplishes its best work when everyone collaborates together.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Current account balances were reported as follows:

Supplies and Expenses: \$365.52

Travel: \$0.00

Staff Recognition: \$1,064.04

Staff Development: \$428.60

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

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

The Employee of the Month discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Salary Classifications and Benefits:** No report.

**Rules and Ethics:** No report.

**Elections:** The committee will begin working on recruiting new senators.

**Staff Handbook:** No report.

**Assessment:** No report.

**Rewards and Recognition:** No report.

**Web Presence:** As Senators Grinie and Dodson transition off the committee, Bobbi Dodson announced that she will continue serving as an ex officio member. Dori Grinie also stated that she will remain involved to assist with the transition. They requested feedback regarding the Staff Senate website and its current content. They also reported that new senators will be added to the website and that all historical information is currently up to date.

**Department Highlights:** No report.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Events Committee:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

47 **NEW BUSINESS**

48 **Swearing-In of President Foster:** President Dean Foster was sworn in by President Bart Brown and then assumed  
49 leadership of the meeting. President Foster thanked President Brown for his dedicated service as Staff Senate  
50 President.

51 **Recognition of Outgoing Staff Senators:** Outgoing Staff Senators were recognized for their service and presented  
52 with certificates by President Foster.

53 **Swearing-In of New Senator:** Senator Morgan Stone was sworn in by President Foster.

54 **Discussion and Selection of Staff Senate Retreat Date:** President Foster announced that he would like to schedule  
55 the annual Staff Senate retreat during July. He will send an email to members to determine a date that works best for  
56 everyone. The retreat will focus on establishing committees and goals for the upcoming year.

57 **OPEN FORUM AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

58 Sally Beckworth announced the upcoming Alumni Golf Tournament and encouraged everyone to visit the Alumni  
59 webpage. She recognized Kacie for the significant work invested in creating a comprehensive website and  
60 encouraged staff to review it, volunteer, or participate in the tournament.

61 Bobbi Dodson reminded everyone that the hiring process policy is currently under review. Feedback received thus  
62 far has been positive. The final day to submit comments is listed as July 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. She also announced  
63 that a formal review of all policies will take place during September and October.

64 Samantha Johnson reminded everyone about Libby App and shared that new audiobooks will be available this fall.

65 Dori Grinie reminded employees that tuition waivers for the fall semester are still being accepted and encouraged  
66 anyone taking classes to submit one.

67 Brandi Barraza reminded everyone that it was Food Pantry Day.

68 A question was raised regarding whether the results of the Valiant Consulting recommendations study would be  
69 made public. To the knowledge of Staff Senate, no information has been released at this time.

70 **NEXT MEETING**

71 The next Staff Senate meeting will be held on August 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the SMB Seminar Room or via Zoom.

72 **ADJOURNMENT**

73 A motion to adjourn was made by Bobbi Dodson and seconded by Dori Grinie. The meeting was adjourned.