

**Western New Mexico University
Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
Student Memorial Building Seminar Room
August 5, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Dean Foster.

ROLL CALL

Senators Present: Brandi Barraza, Jennifer Castanon, Vice President Samantha Johnson, James Lee, Marivel Medal, Kathy Sorells, Sean Souders, and Morgan Stone.

Senators Absent: Richard Blevins, Brea Brown, and Maggie Veeder.

Proxies:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by President Dean Foster and seconded by Marivel Medel. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Foster stated that staff senate will need to work on the website. The goal is to continue working on communication, events, and IT email list. Updated meeting on Monday at 4 pm in September. President Dean Foster stated that there is an ice cream social being hosted in the gardens on August 18th from 12:30-2:30. President Dean Foster will be meeting with President Cole on August 18th. President Dean Foster stated that the new fall semester will start on August 17th.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Samantha Johnson does not have a report. Glad to start the new year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current account balances were reported as follows:

Supplies and Expenses: \$600.00

Travel: \$600.00

Staff Recognition: \$1,360

Staff Development:

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The Employee of the Month is Randy Woodard for August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Salary Classifications and Benefits: No report. Trying to get time with the president Cole for a meeting.

Rules and Ethics: No report.

Career and Development: Excited to bring some trainings to staff.

Elections: Data base will need to be looked at and will need to complete a re-election. Will need to make sure that all is in attendance.

Staff Handbook: No position chair currently, will need to find a senator to fill in the position.

Assessment: No report.

Rewards and Recognition: No report. In the process of transitioning roles.

Web Presence: No report, stated that there have been issues with getting access to the website.

Department Highlights: No position chair currently, will need to find a senator to fill in the position.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Events Committee: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Employee of the month. Vice President Samantha Johnson asked if anyone would like to be chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President: Stated needs committee chairs, and not to be nervous as it is a reminder.

49 **OPEN FORUM AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

50 Tuition wavers are due by August 21st. Committee was reminded that both staff and their family member may apply.

51 Please make sure to return to Dior in the HR Building.

52 Library is hosting two authors on Aug. 29th at 11am

53 Community member asked a question about any update on salary. President Dean Foster stated that he has spoken

54 with HR and as soon as they have the information, he will relay the message to the community. Vice President

55 Samantha Johnson stated that the library has a digital copy the salary of 2026-2027.

56 One spot is happening today, August 5th at 12 pm.

57 **NEXT MEETING**

58 The next Staff Senate meeting will be held on September 2nd, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the SMB Seminar Room or via

59 Zoom. General Assembly will be held on Monday September 14th at 10am in the library.

60 **ADJOURNMENT**

61 A motion to adjourn was made by James Lee and seconded by Marivel Medel. The meeting was adjourned.