

Thursday, March 13, 2025 | 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Great Plains Room | East Nebraska Union

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Staff Senate meeting as corrected by those participating. These are provisional and subject to change until approved at the May 8th meeting.

**Meeting Called to Order** at **2:32 p.m.**by President Jordan Gonzales

Land Acknowledgement read

Recognition of Co -Chair of Bylaws Committee – Doug Pellatz, serving as parliamentarian

Recognition of new members on the Senate: Bryan Desh (District 6) and Jeanne Schroeder (District 7)

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of the [Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025](https://staffsenate.unl.edu/documents/newsletter-meeting-minutes/)

Committee Consent Reports can be viewed on Microsoft Teams and need no approval. We received Committee Consent Reports from the Bylaws, Communications, Elections, Liaison, Personnel Affairs, and Recognition Committees.

If you have any difficulties opening the consent agendas or accessing Teams due to the IT migration, please contact Joann Ross.

**Officer Reports**

President Gonzales

Recipient of the Presidential Citation Award for Excellence to the Division of Student Life for their efforts with 2024 Homecoming planning. Special recognition was given to Hollie Swanson for leading the efforts.

Presentation: Cloud Collaboration Migration Facilitated by Rick Haugerud, UNL Chief Information Officer, and Katie McGowen.

Migration is currently set for UNL, UNK, and UNO. At this time, there are no plans to migrate UNMC. Migration will happen in stages, with the intention of having the process completed by the end of December 2025. True You usernames will change because of the migration. All information will migrate. Within SharePoint you will not lose the things that you have created. You will be able to link to a report you can run from SharePoint and OneDrive to see which information you’ve shared.

Changes within Teams: messaging will have a 30-day retention period. After that date, the messages will be deleted. A technician will reach out to each unit 30 days prior to the switchover to alert individuals to let them know what will be migrated and how to react to the change.

Presentation: Emergency Management Plan, Facilitated by Abby Schletzbaum, UNL Emergency Management Director.

Departmental Safety Committees are a good place to start to understand how the process works. Notably, we are dealing with adults (faculty, staff and students), so we cannot control decisions they make regarding compliance. We can set a good example of what to do in an emergency.

There will be a statewide tornado drill on March 26 at 10am. Safety Plans are not completely public but if you would like to review a plan reach out to Abby.

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 Top Priorities for March and April

Progress update on the Task Force on Workplace Culture and Engagement: building bridges with campus leaders and shareholders to bring about change. Collecting feedback regarding the 9 points provided. By April 30, will update the Staff Senators on progress. Senators will find the updated language in the 3-2-1 emails.

Discussion on committees and how we will respond to hibernated committees. The Executive Committee will be meeting with committee co-chairs to discuss the structure of committees. Specifically, we are looking at the current committee structure to see if current committees are meeting current needs and determine if new committees are needed.

The Executive Committee is meeting with President Gold on Monday, March 24 to discuss the system’s strategic plan and the university’s financial future.

The Executive Committee will be meeting with Chancellor Bennett he short and long-term campus budget cuts. The date of that meeting has not yet been set.

If you have questions on the Budget cuts submit them to Morgan Green McConnell via email (mgreen18@unl.edu) by March 23rd so that they can be shared with President Gold and Chancellor Bennett.

Discussion with UNL Vice Chancellor of Business & Finance, Mike Zeleny.

The 5 million budget shortfall will be eliminated through efforts by the vice chancellors and their units. In fact, proposals are being developed and shared with vice chancellors now. Much of the cuts will likely come from open lines.

In the next academic year, there will be more vertical cuts ($10-20 million) to compensate for the lack of tuition and cuts in state funding as well as increases in things like cybersecurity. This part of the process will engage the APC, on which the Staff Senate President and the Vice President for Internal Affairs sit. Uncertainties remain regarding the state budget allotment to UNL and the impact that it will have on employee salaries.

Vice Chancellor Zeleny noted that the way the budget cycle works can’t really be changed. Thus, it is not practical for Board Of Regents to approve budget before June. When asked what kind of messaging we should share with others, Zeleny responded that leaders must be positive and transparent. This is unprecedented time, very true that positions might be lost but also true that the university is hiring. Morale is such an important thing; We should recognize that situations like this come in waves.

Business Simplified will be rolling out in key areas, once the first round of budget cuts have occurred.

Vice President for Internal Affairs Brophy

Forecast of the Academic Planning Committee’s involvement in the proposed budget cuts. As noted, the Staff Senate will have a voice at the table when those meetings turn to budget cuts. The coming months will be critical in shaping UNL’s financial future.

Brophy discussed the impact of the proposed legislative budget and what they will be allotting to UNL. The budget will go to the Governor by May 15. The governor then has three options: 1) do nothing and the budget moves forward, 2) sign the budget and it will move forward, 3) offer a line-item modification that will be sent back to the legislature, at which time a 2/3 majority vote is necessary to pass the revisions.

Vice President for External Affairs Harner

Big Ten Staff Advocacy Collaborative update: monitoring how different institutions within the Big 10 are responding to recent executive orders.

Coordinator & Executive Secretary Ross

July meeting schedule: after talking with NSE leadership and a Senior Advisor, the Executive Committee has determined that the July meeting will take place as originally scheduled, Thursday, July 10 from 1-5. This should provide time for you to plan accordingly.

Updates on the election: As of today, 638 staff members have voted for candidates who will serve in the Staff Senate election for the coming year. Their terms will begin at the July 10 meeting.

If you have not signed the check-in sheet, please do so as you leave the meeting today. As you are leaving, please help yourself to a pocket constitution in the box on the sign-in table.

**New Business / Open Mic**

April 1 new deadline for submission of nominations for Recognition Awards.

**Adjournment at** 4:04 p.m.

The next Staff Senate Assembly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Nebraska Union, Platte River Room.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Morgan Green McConnell, Secretary, and Joann Ross, Staff Senate Coordinator and Executive Secretary.