Recognizing the value of involving staff as the University progresses toward the accomplishment of its goals and solution of its challenges, the staff, faculty and administration established the UCO Staff Senate. The UCO Staff Senate was created in spring 2014 to represent the full-time, benefitted staff that work at UCO. The areas that make up the Staff Senate include: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Information Technology, Operations, Finance, Faculty, and Mixed Small Divisions. Staff senators are elected in the spring of each year to three-year terms. The number of senators elected in each division is directly related to the number of staff employed in each of those divisions.

The purpose of the Senate is to examine matters affecting all represented employees of UCO, to act as an advocate for said employees, and to advise and communicate with UCO administration and governance structure.

The Staff Senate wants and encourages you to address concerns and issues facing the university and staff. Please contact a senator from your division, or Staff Senate President, Scott DeBoard.
Staff Senate Resolutions:

- **SSR 2018/2019-002—Reaffirmation: No Weapons on Campus**
  - The Staff Senate reaffirmed its continued opposition to any modification of Oklahoma State law which would allow non-law enforcement personnel to carry weapons on college and university campuses.

- **SSR 2018/2019-001—Diversity Round Table Goals Support**
  - This proposed resolution shows Staff Senate support of the goals and efforts of the Diversity Round Table student organization for 2018-2019. This resolution is slated for debate and vote at the January 2019 Staff Senate general meeting.

- **SSR 2017/2018-004—Support for Age-Friendly University**
  - Through this resolution, the Staff Senate showed support of the Committee on Diversity advocacy for UCO becoming a member of the Age-Friendly University (AFU) Global Network, thus, developing more age-friendly programs and practices for staff, faculty and students.

- **SSR 2017/2018-003—Staff Faculty Joint Issue Resolution**
  - This resolution sought to provide structure and continuity for Joint Issue processes.

- **SSR 2017/2018-001—Resolution in Support of DACA Students**
  - Recognizing the importance of embracing DACA recipients, Staff Senate offered its support of DACA students and encouraged institutional as well as community support for the same.

Staff Senate Proposals:

- **SSP 2018/2019-001—Campus Expression Policy Revision**
  - This proposal seeks to address the jurisdiction of the “enforcement and interpretation” of the Campus Expression Policy adopted in the fall of 2017. The proposal was passed by the Senate November 6, 2018, and has been submitted to the President for an official response.

- **SSP 2017/2018-002—Joint Proposal: Gender Inclusive Restroom Initiative**
  - Accepted by President Betz effective August 8, 2018
  - As accepted by Administration, this proposal will require that gender-inclusive restrooms be considered in all new construction and future renovations, as well as modifying existing restrooms that are assessed as being low cost.

- **SSP 2017/2018-001—Joint Proposal: Tuition Waiver Benefit**
  - Accepted by President Betz effective July 1, 2018
  - This proposal converted employee tuition waiver benefits from a defined dollar amount to defined credit hours, starting at 8 hours effective July 1, 2018, with a gradual increase of yearly benefited hours to 14 by fiscal year 2022, dependent on fiscal health.

- **SSP 2016-2017-003—Request for Short Term Disability**
  - Accepted by President Betz effective October 26, 2018
  - This proposal requested that UCO offer short term disability insurance to qualified full-time employees at their cost with no additional cost to UCO.
FAQs

Why do I want to be part of the Staff Senate?
As a Staff Senator, you are an advocate for change or improvements that affect represented UCO staff. Staff Senators work with shared governance to promote better understanding, cooperation, and communication between University staff, faculty, students and administration. On a more personal level, as a senator, you have the opportunity to make a difference at UCO, to become more involved in the UCO community, to obtain a broad knowledge of University operations, and to gain valuable networking opportunities.

How are Senators chosen?
Nominations and elections are held in the spring of each year. To be eligible to serve, senators must be full-time, benefited staff or faculty and have been employed with UCO for a minimum of six consecutive months prior to the start of their term.

What are the Senate terms?
Senators are elected to three-year terms. Senators may not serve more than two consecutive terms. However, after a one-year absence, previous Senators are eligible for nomination and re-election.

What is the time commitment of being a Senator?
Time commitments can vary based upon your level of involvement. Staff Senate meets once a month for approximately 1.5 hours. Senators are required to serve on at least one Senate standing committee per term year. Standing committees meet on a monthly basis. If you are a member of the Executive Committee, you can expect your commitment level to be significantly higher than others.

How do I submit an idea for potential legislation and/or policy revision?
Contact your divisional Staff Senate representative. If you do not know who your representative is, you can find a listing on the UCO Staff Senate website under the “Senators” tab. If you have an idea and would like to submit it for consideration in the form of a bill, you can find a template to do so in the “Bills, Proposals & Resolutions” tab of the UCO Staff Senate website.

Can I attend a Staff Senate meeting?
Absolutely! All Staff Senate meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates, times, and locations are posted on the Staff Senate website. Meeting agendas are posted on the website 48 hours prior to each meeting.
2018-2019 STAFF SENATE ROSTER

Academic Affairs
Zachary Hunter
Dana Jackson-Hardwick
Sophia Kuschel
Sharon LaFave
Annamaria Martucci
Matthew Moore
Michele Ramsdell
Liliana Renteria Mendoza
Eric Rogers
Carlie Wellington
Brenton Wimmer
Vacant Seat

Operations
Dawn Haggerty
Lisa Haque
Patrick Harrel
Khari Huff
Mike Liskey
Brittany Platt
Carl Shortt
Kelly Vaughn

Information Technology
James Provine
David Seigman

Mixed Divisions
(Communications/Foundation/President’s Office/Government Relations)
Roberta Botello
Lauren Bieri

Student Affairs
Taylor Baird
Shelby Button
Dallas Caldwell
Kimberly Campbell
Tami Clavin
Cheryl Duke
John Stephens

Faculty
James Daro
Sanjeewa Gamagedara
Kathlynn Smith

Finance
Scott DeBoard
Jakey Dobbs

This roster represents the active Staff Senate members as of December 21, 2018

For more information, visit our website at https://www.uco.edu/central/staff-senate