

Staff Advisory Committee

May 7, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brian Allen, Joyce Arnold-Hesson, Christa Blair, Emily Disbrow, Liam Harder, Melanie Mabrey, Tammy Martorana, Peggy Nettenstrom, Cathleen Walker, Debe Yu

Members Absent: Danny Birdwell, Jennifer Dewar, Ashton Estes, Jennifer Goad, Irene Mauk, Catherine Warren, Miranda Wilson, Savannah Yarbrough

Others Present: President Oldham, Lee Wray, Aleta Cannon

Summary:

Approved Agenda

Approved March 26, 2026 minutes

Nominations for Administrative Council

Discussed Board of Trustees Breakfast

Comments by the President

Proceedings:

Chair Melanie Mabrey called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. Debe Yu motioned to approve the agenda for May 7, 2026. Joyce Arnold-Hesson seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Liam Harder motioned to approve the March 26, 2026, minutes. Yu seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Chair Mabrey noted that two C&S positions were open on Administrative Council and volunteers to join the committee were needed. Aleta Cannon explained that being a member of Administrative Council consisted of attending three meetings each semester, hearing amendments to policies and committee procedures, and voting on the changes. Liam Harder and Arnold-Hesson agreed to fill the open positions.

Chair Mabrey explained that the Staff Day planning subcommittee had met recently and decided on a few matters: 1) Staff Day would have three guest speakers (hopefuls were Shan Stout with Cookeville Tourism, Derek Woolbright and UPD's Chief Nichols for Campus Safety, and Dr. Rob and Charria Campbell) with slightly longer time slots, giving them more time to speak, and 2) Tote bags with a design on them would be the attendee gift rather than t-shirts. Since t-shirts would not be given this year, it was suggested that Staff Advisory members wear last year's shirt, so they were recognizable. It was also decided to display a slide show with Staff Advisory members' photos and some fun facts so attendees can identify the members and get to know

them better. A QR code for food pantry donations would be set up in case attendees forgot to bring canned goods to donate and approval was granted to fill the UPD Tahoe with donations. The save the date for Staff Day 2026 would be submitted and sent out in the May 14, 2026, edition of the Tech Times. Registration would begin in early June and run through mid-July so numbers for the tote bag order could be sent to the vendor on time.

Cannon also mentioned that the Tennessee Tech Board of Trustees would be meeting again on Thursday, June 25, 2026. The Staff Advisory Committee to the President was invited to join them for breakfast, around 7-7:30 am that morning, depending on meeting start time. A formal invitation would go out via email soon.

President Oldham began his comments by noting that spring 2026 was the next day. It would be the largest commencement day ever at Tennessee Tech with around 1,600 students graduating. It had been a busy semester and a productive year overall. Dr. Mickey Latour would be joining the University as Provost on July 1, 2026. He came from Arkansas State University and had previously been at Purdue University. Dr. Katie Aikens had already assumed the position of Vice President of Student Affairs and was off to a great start.

Arnold-Hesson motioned to adjourn. Martorana seconded. Adjourned at 2:04 pm.

Aleta Cannon, recorder