

FOR THE LOVE OF STAFF SENATE

In July 2023, *Roni D. Stearns*, Senator for the Chancellors Office Division was elected President of the FSU Staff Senate. *Jermaine L. Stearns*, Senator for the Division of Academic Affairs was voted Vice-President. For the first time in Staff Senate history, a husband-and-wife duo is leading the prestigious body of leaders across the campus. But who are The Stearns and what do they love about the Senate?

Who are The Stearns?

Jermaine & Roni: We are servant-leaders in our workplace and our faith community who love developing others. We pride ourselves in being a voice for the underrepresented. We love to EAT, laugh, and spend time with our three kiddos, Jerni, Jordan, and Josiah (JL3). We are entrepreneurs, dog lovers, and coffee and popcorn connoisseurs.

Are you an FSU Alum?

Jermaine & Roni: Yes, we are both proud alums!

How long have you served in the Senate?

Roni: I have served in the Senate for close to ten years. *Jermaine:* This is my second year serving.

What do you love the most about Staff Senate?

Jermaine: I love the comradery, the unity, and hanging out with colleagues.
Roni: I love that Staff Senate advocates for change, equity, and engagement for our staff. I enjoy getting to know my colleagues and opportunities for partnership and collaboration with senior leaders to enhance the employee experience at FSU.

What is one goal you hope to accomplish during your term?

Roni: The pandemic shifted how we interact and engage across campus. I feel like we are still recovering from that shift, so I'd like the Senate Body to re-engage with our campus and community to hopefully better shape the perception of our Senate's impact on campus. The Staff Senate does amazing work and I want the campus to feel and see the change we are making... rebranding and re-engaging.

Jermaine: I'd like to make sure all committees are functioning at full capacity.



Staff Senate President
Roni Stearns



Staff Senate Vice President
Jermaine Stearns

📞 910-672-1144

✉️ rstearns@uncfsu.edu

📍 1200 Murchison Rd. Fayetteville, NC

📞 910-672-1325

✉️ jstearns@uncfsu.edu

WHO IS STAFF SENATE?

Mrs. Chanieca Hudson, Administrative Support Associate, Police & Public Safety

Who is Staff Senate?

We are you. We are your co-worker. We are the familiar face you smile at in passing even if you do not remember our name. We are the Police Officer. We are Coach. We are the employee of the year and sometimes we are the quiet employee who no one notices.

We are dedicated volunteers who love our HBCU, Fayetteville State University and happily volunteer our time and talents to ensure that on our campus we maintain open lines of communications from the guard house to the Chancellors office.

It is the mission of the Staff Senator to represent the staff and to keep your interest and concerns on the desk of the University administration. We promote and lead by example respect, positivity, and professionalism in what we do. We serve at the request of the Chancellor and use those opportunities to honorably represent you, the Staff.

We take the opportunity to celebrate with each other with luncheons, holiday parties, food trucks and more. If you missed the karaoke day at the amphitheater, you missed a fun time! We, the Senators of your Staff Senate, are always seeking new opportunities for the staff to offer their talents, services, and experience to Fayetteville State University.

We will continue to promote our HBCU as one of the greatest by showing our **BRONCO PRIDE** in all that we do while serving you, the Staff.



Photo Credit: Ezekiel Best, University Photographer, Office of Strategic Communication

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **President/Chair:** Roni D. Stearns, MSHR
- **Vice-President/Vice-Chair:** Jermaine L. Stearns
- **Secretary:** Dorothy Cannon-Brown
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Melissa Wells
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Claudette Fuller
- **Parliamentarian:** Sylvester Washington
- **Membership Coordinator:** Chanieca Hudson
- **Web Coordinator:** Tiffany Torres



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MEET YOUR STAFF SENATORS!

Adam L. Toland, Network Engineer, Infrastructure

Are you wondering how to bridge the gap between campus leadership and staff members? Do you have things that you would like to have brought up that affect all staff members at Fayetteville State University? Do you have suggestions for a more efficient and effective working environment for all employees, but don't know where to go with those suggestions? Meet your Fayetteville State University Staff Senate!

Each area of the University has 1 Senator per 25 employees in that respective division or area. As Senate, we work closely with Human Resources to offer staff development opportunities, work to provide education grants for SHRA and EHRA employees, increase staff involvement in collaborations and partnerships with Faculty Senate and Student Government Association, and work to increase our staff involvement in community partnerships to name a few things. Inside of the Staff Senate there are 9 different subcommittees whose purpose is to dig deep, work to tackle the hard issues and be the voice for every staff member at Fayetteville State University.

Stop by and meet your respective Staff Senator today, they are waiting to be of assistance!



Academic Affairs

Cannon-Brown, Dorothy (2022-2024)
Administrative Support Associate
Psychology

Stearns, Jermaine (2022-2024)
Administrative Support Associate
Financial Aid

Wells, Melissa (2022-2024)
Assistant Director, Graduate Admissions
Admissions Office

Fuller, Claudette (2022-2024)
Instructional Designer
Office of Faculty Development

Baker, Jesse (2023-2025)
Director of Data and Assessment
College of Education

Williams, Adrian (2023-2025)
Academic Support Specialist
Bronco One Stop

Pennix, SeQuenna (2023-2025)
Interim Student Success Coordinator
21st Century

Angelini, Kaitlin (2023-2025)
Academic Advisor
MBA Program

Business and Finance

Moody, Arnescia (2022-2024)
Business Services Coordinator
Business Services

Washington, Sylvester (2022-2024)
Operations Coordinator
Facilities Management

Fullwood, Roderick (2023-2025)
Building Environmental Services Tech-Grounds
Facilities Management

Miles, Seneva (2023-2025)
Payroll Manager
Payroll

Cohen, Barbara (2023-2025)
Administrative Support Specialist
Facilities Management

Chancellor's Office

Folgate, Abby (2022-2024)
Human Resources Specialist
Human Resources

Best, Ezekiel (2022-2024)
University Photographer
Office of Strategic Communication

Hudson, Chanieca (2023-2025)
Administrative Support Associate
Public Safety

Stearns, Roni (2023-2025)
Human Resources Training Specialist
Human Resources

University Advancement

Hocker, Michelle (2022-2024)
Administrative Support Associate
Office of Alumni Relations

ITS

Mewshaw, Charles (2023-2025)
Chief Information Security Officer
Information Security

Toland, Adam (2023-2025)
Network Engineer
Infrastructure

Student Affairs

Baxter, Jarmel (2023-2025)
Student Services Specialist
Student Affairs

[View Staff Senate Roster](#)

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STAFF APPRECIATION GAME & TAILGATE

Roni D. Stearns, MSHR HR Specialist – Training & Professional Development

The Fall 2023 semester kicked off with the "Dream Team" hosting the Faculty & Staff Appreciation Game and Tailgate made possible by the Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Provost, and Athletics.

The Staff Senate would like to give a hearty shout-out to our Faculty Senate family and all who made this special event possible and successful!



UNC SYSTEM STAFF ASSEMBLY CHANCELLORS' CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT



Immediate Past President *Dwane Hodges* and Senator *David Troup* represented Fayetteville State University and the Staff Senate at the 2023 **UNC Staff Assembly Golf Tournament** with members of the State Employees Association of North Carolina (**SEANC**).

If you would like to learn more about SEANC membership and benefits please contact your Staff Senator!

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910-672-1325

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jstearns@uncfsu.edu

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FSU HOMECOMING & PARADE 2023

Dwane Hodges, Budget Officer – Sponsored Research & Programs

On October 26, 2023, the Staff Senate made their presence known in Fayetteville State University’s Homecoming Parade.

Helping to organize the participants at the start of the parade route were *Tiffany Torres, Alicia Judd, and Ivan Williams*, with the assistance of AVC *Gretchen Cobb*. *Dwane Hodges and Dr. Cierra Griffin* were in the center of the parade route to let the performers know when and where it was time to stop and show their skills. At the end of the parade route, *Nicholle Young* assisted the Fayetteville Police Department with directing parade participants to their designated disassembly areas and exit routes.

The parade was the first event for the new Mr. and Ms. Staff, and they were able to travel in style. They each rode in separate, beautiful Corvette convertibles donated by the *Cape Fear Team Corvette Club* through the kindness of *Mr. Audwin Lindsay and Mr. Anthony Hillard*. Staff Senate President and Vice President, *Roni and Jermaine Stearns*, assisted at all locations at various times, including assisting their daughter’s dance troupe.

It was an amazing event featuring student organizations, marching bands, go carts, dance troupes, three-wheeled cars, and cheering supporters along the roadside.

A highlight of the day was Chancellor Allison yelling, “**Can I get an attitude check!**”, and the community members yelling back “**Broncoooooo Pride!**”



Photo Credit: Ezekiel Best, University Photographer, Office of Strategic Communication



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MR. & MS. STAFF SENATE

Michelle Hocker, Administrative Support Associate – Office of Alumni Relations

Our Fayetteville State University Staff Senate established the Mr. and Ms. Staff competition as a fundraiser for the Senate. This is an annual contest that ends with the crowning of both Mr. and Ms. Staff Senate. The winners are chosen by the highest monetary donations raised by either candidate. The Mr. and Ms. Staff contest is not only to raise funds for the Senate, but it also encourages a friendly competition between staff and assists in the fundraising goals of the university.

For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, there were 11 amazing candidates! The hard work of the candidates was apparent as they raised a total of \$7,012.63. The winners of the contest were: **Mr. James McDuffie and Dr. Claudette Fuller**. We would also like to show appreciation to our other candidates: *Mr. Ivan Williams, Mr. Kintu Stevenson, Ms. Aleena Cruz-Coleman, Ms. Donyell Baba, Ms. Michelle Saunders, Ms. Reychel Martinez, Ms. SeQuenna Pennix, Ms. Tiffany Torres, and Ms. Tynekia McQueen.*

The winners of Mr. and Ms. Staff were able to participate in the 2023 Homecoming Parade as well as receive special recognition at Senate hosted events, which includes the Employee Appreciation Luncheon. In addition, this year the Office of Alumni Affairs gave the winners complimentary VIP tickets to the Alumni Affairs Cocktail Party as well as the Alumni Affairs Day Party during Homecoming 2023. The prizes were amazing!

As previously stated, not only did these donations from the contest raise funds for the Staff Senate, but it also helped increase participation in our university's fiscal year goals. We are proud of the work that our senate contributes to fundraising efforts throughout the year. We hope that this competition continues to grow and continues to highlight some of the strengths of our organization.

FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Staff Senate is pleased to announce...

2023 Mr. FSU Staff
James McDuffie

2023 Ms. FSU Staff
Dr. Claudette Fuller

Mr. Staff Runner-up: Kintu Stevenson
Ms. Staff Runner-up: SeQuenna Pennix

Congratulations to our winners and each contestant for your incredible efforts.
Thank you to each supporter and donor!

All proceeds benefit FSU Staff Senate initiatives and the Senate Education Grant

Mr. & Ms. Staff Senate James McDuffie & Dr. Claudette Fuller



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TAX SEASON TIPS!

Charles Mewshaw, Chief Information Security Officer – Information Security

Tax season is upon us, and with it, an opportunity for scammers to try and capture your personal information for financial gain. Maintain vigilance, and if you get a strange feeling about a phone call or e-mail, don't hesitate to follow up and verify authenticity before doing anything else!

Here are some tips you can use to reduce your chances of being a victim

- File your taxes as early as possible, this will help head off anyone else from fraudulently filing on your behalf.
- Do not take calls claiming to be from the IRS, the IRS will not call you. Just hang up, even if the caller purports to be from the "criminal investigative branch" of the IRS.
- If you get a call from someone claiming to be from your bank or credit card company, hang up and call the financial institution back on their official customer service line.
- Clear important tax documents from your e-mail inbox and store securely elsewhere. A compromised e-mail address can become a treasure trove of tax forms for an attacker.

If you have any suspicions about communications and would like to speak with staff about it, please call the ITS service desk at 910-672-HELP or creating a service request at <https://services.uncfsu.edu/>. You can also report suspected phishing messages directly in your Outlook mail app.

IMPORTANT TOPICS

Is there a topic of discussion that you would like to see featured in the **Bronco Beat**?

Do you have an article that you would like to submit for consideration to be published?

Please contact the Communications and Publications Committee!

✉ ttorres2@uncfsu.edu



☎ 910-672-1144

✉ rstearns@uncfsu.edu

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✉ jstearns@uncfsu.edu





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WANT TO KNOW MORE!

Visit the [Staff Senate Website](#) to get updates on upcoming events, highlights from past events, Staff Senate meeting records and opportunities to serve with any (or all!) of the committees listed below!

STAFF SENATE COMMITTEES

- Executive
- Ways & Means
- Election
- Bylaws
- Legislative Advisory
- Event Planning
- Communications and Publications
- Hospitality
- Education

STAFF SENATE MEETINGS

The Staff Senate hold monthly meetings in the Board Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Charles W. Chesnutt Library and digitally on Teams. Meetings are held every 3rd Thursday of the calendar month from 2-4 pm.

If you would like a Teams invite sent to your email please contact the Staff Senate Secretary, [Dorothy Cannon-Brown](#).



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Bronco Beat Editors: Communications and Publications Committee