



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 8/7/2025

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges

The Staff Senate held the August Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Bridges called the session to order at 11:07am

Absences: JF1:none; JF2: Justin Daugherty; JF3: Joseph Cillesson; JF4: Christian Bowles, Nicholas Horne, Galen Martin, Kelly Schlinder; Divisional Reps: Stephanie Smith

Guests: Briar Douglas, Ellen Currie, Serena Whorton, Kelly Wood, Theresa McCoy, Kelly Barnts, Gretchen Gawron, Denise Lofton

GREETINGS

Chair Bridges welcomed everyone to the August Staff Senate Meeting

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Dr. Kelly Wood and Theresa McCoy – ATLAS project (custom software) which stands for “Advising Toolkit for Learning and Academic Success.” Builds on Student Information Menu and Advisement notes that exist now. Will also be used at West Plains. Allowing more student-facing staff to have access to this to help students. Boomer Bot is part of this. Roll-out should begin on September 1, 2025 (student facing version later)

Real time integration from Banner just like now. May pull some info from Brightspace in the future. New exciting features like Search by email and Student details with major listed from search (They will come in and do a demonstration for departments if requested.)

- Ellen Currie – Coordinator of Student Care and Support in the Dean of Students office (works closely with BIT team)

Went over BIT referral form, handed out new magnets with QR code, discussed Risk Rubric to help them determine the kind of outreach that a student needs. Every report helps them put together the puzzle pieces to understand the student. Explained that lots of details in the BIT is best – put everything you can. Can be anonymous. Students can refer other students on BIT. They will update you if you reach back out later.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair: Ombuds update (Mary Bohlen was hired); Senator Handbook was emailed, mentioned some Welcome Week events (listed on slide), discussed upcoming guest speakers – please make suggestions. In September it will be Provost Phillips, AD Ransdell, and Senator Bowles. In October it will be President Williams.
- Chair Elect: Facilities Management had a meeting this morning, that overlapped a small portion of the Staff Senate meeting.
- Past-Chair: Up 6.1% in domestic transfer enrollment
- Coordinator of Communications: No report
- Coordinator of Committees: Reminder about signing up for a committee, asked for chair & meeting times on the outreach committee (some may gather after the meeting).
- Secretary: no report
- Parliamentarian: no report
- Historian: discussion of “University Row” to honor retirees and other important campus figures

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION REPORTS

- Academic Calendar – Chair Bridges: none
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: none
- Employee Wellness – Chair Bridges on behalf of Senator Martin: Bear Balance, etc from newsletter
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: did not meet
- Faculty Senate – Chair Bridges: did not meet yet
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges: meeting coming in August
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin: no report
- IT Council – Chair-Elect Bridges: Egon spoke about Boomer Bot and its usage (has already paid for itself because of students who didn’t drop out after talking to Boomer). Connects students to the folks who can help them. Big questions raised about projects and purpose of IT council itself.
- President’s Council on Accessibility – Past-Chair Derrick: updates on what’s been going on with building access across campus, bookstore providing accessible resources
- Shared Leave – Senator Muñoz Aliaga, Senator Mallonee: Approved one case last month
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: no report but be thinking about who you want to nominate (can do it now – more details you include in nomination the better)
- Student Government – Varies: Adjourned for summer – will need help to attend these Tuesday evenings
- Strategic Planning Committee – Senator Hader: BOG agenda will be out tomorrow with draft plan
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: Won’t meet again until fall
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: did not meet

- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: reviewed policy changes from parking committee meeting
- University Council – Chair Bridges – Boomer Bot discussed again, presentation of how legislation affects financial aid, listening lunches with President Williams (Chair Bridges sent a list of 100 staff members as suggestions for the lunches this year)
- University Space Allocation – Hader – met and there are monthly meetings scheduled, discussed MARCOM and space for them, discussion of Chase Studios; Terry Chase left us land and studios by Bull Shoals (in probate, some things were promised to other universities). Moving the Herbarium out of Kings Street Annex and putting it somewhere else (not in the Blunt footprint).
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges: has not met
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Cressman: no report
- Williams’ Welcome – Chair Bridges: this event finally happen and included new employees from March 2025 until now
- Wyrick Commission – Senator Piercy – September 25th is the first meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Adopt a Street, next meeting on Zoom on August 13th, decorated Hope Cards for Ozarks Food Harvest on July 31st.
- Staff Activities (Babb): August 1st was Springfield Cardinals game (West Plains folks came), trying to do more activities with West Plains, Sept 27th is future tailgate with Vet Center, chili dogs served and you get free football game tickets if you come. Nov 15th homecoming with Vet center Harbells Wings and free football game tickets. Outing at the Little Theater coming up but will be a senator only event – which play to be voted on later. Next meeting August 20th in library 303
- Staff Development (Helton, Phillips): Nothing to report
- Staff Outreach: meeting after the Senate meeting today

OLD BUSINESS

- Bylaws workgroup – no chance to meet with President Williams and Matt Morris so we are pushing that out for now
- Senator Handbook – feedback was that it looks great and was helpful
- Ad-hoc committees: CUPA and Strategic Plan implementation groups – Bridges will update us as things progress but has asked that there be plenty of staff representation on these committees.

NEW BUSINESS

- Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch – will be on October 7th, selling t-shirts is complicated, we would still like to partner with Teri Trickey to help support this event. Sen. Laura Derrick and Sen. April Phillips volunteered to help and be a contact for Trickey.
- Staff Satisfaction Survey – will go out later this fall, Chair Bridges asked if Staff Outreach or Development committee can handle this (add questions, promote)? Staff Development committee (April Phillips) will take the lead?

OPEN FORUM

- Chair Bridges read announcement of death of Keith Boaz, our executive director of athletic and entertainment facilities from President’s office, Senator Mings mentioned the resources MSU offers for grieving.

- Senator Schiller mentioned that she can talk to us through the Banner changes that are coming (SSA pages that connect to the Student Information Menu). Chair Bridges suggested Staff Development can come up with some trainings.
- Will Veterans Day become a state holiday? And will we close for that day in the future?
- Non-degree seeking classes - Rob Ybanez mentioned that we can fill out the application and use our tuition waiver
- Students no longer have to do the Title IX training (offered but not required) - if there is a hold they can reach out to the Dean of Students office to get it removed.
- Emergency preparedness training has gone out, parts 1 & 2 are due by end of the month but part 3 is optional.
- Union Club is closing down ASAP

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close August meeting by unanimous consent made by Ryan Reed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm

Next Meeting: September 4, 2025 at 11:00am in Glass 486