



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 12/4/2025

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges

The Staff Senate held the December Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Bridges called the session to order at 11:12

Absences: JF1: Margaret Osler; JF 2: Justin Daugherty, Ingrid Hintze, Kem Yost; JF 4: Nicholas Horne, Rheanna Pulley, Kelly Schlinder; Divisional Reps: Stephanie Smith
Guests: Tashiana Conklin, Cali Pettijohn, Denise Lofton, Serena Whorton, Tara Joyce, Laura Anderson, Adrian Balanean, Lisa McEwen

GREETINGS

Chair Bridges welcomed everyone to the December Staff Senate Meeting

GUEST SPEAKERS

- a. Senator Sierra Chitwood, Residence Life – Boomer's Five and Dime – always the week before finals week, raises money for a Wilda F. Looney and Gary K. Stewart Residence Life Leadership Scholarship for students. There will be a live auction on Friday for donated items

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: Chair will report to the Board of Governors on 12/22 – will send his report to the senate with the minutes of today's meeting. State Government Relations meeting on 11/13. University Council Meeting on 12/3 – are you sharing the updates with others? Strategic Plan oversight meeting on Monday 12/2. Campbell and Phil will present on Staff Satisfaction Survey to University Council in January.
- Chair Elect: Nothing to report
- Past-Chair: Nothing to report
- Coordinator of Committees: Nothing to report
- Coordinator of Communications: Nothing to report
- Secretary: Nothing to report

- Parliamentarian: Nothing to report
- Historian: Nothing to report

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION REPORTS

- Academic Calendar – Chair Bridges: no updates
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: no updates
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: DeStress fest is tomorrow, 3 massages left; Last Weight Watchers will be Jan-March (may have something else in the future); What’s Brewing in the Library next week on Thursday Dec 11th for employees; All the spring programs are up for registration. Reminder of President’s open house next week (Monday Dec 8th) and staff service awards luncheon in January
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: will cover more later
- Faculty Senate – Senators Ball and Van Rhein – meets this afternoon, last meeting was about curricular proposals
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: nothing to report
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin: figuring out spring semester events TBA
- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy: no updates
- President’s Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: didn’t meet
- Shared Leave – Senator Jean, Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga: approved one parental leave case
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: will hear the winners at the luncheon, more part-time nominees than last year
- Student Government – Parliamentarian Hader and Senator Chitwood: last meeting of the semester just happened; legislative appointments and student organization approvals, promoted students applying for Student Body President.
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: didn’t meet
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: no report
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: no report
- University Council – Chair Bridges: Topics were Town Hall meeting on Friday at 2pm in PSU Theater; Master Plan update is available online; West Plains HLC Update; Student Resource Center and the Leadership Institute; H1B and minimum wage updates.
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader: discussion happening, but no budget for changes
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges: nothing to report
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: nothing to report
- Williams’ Welcome – Chair Bridges –next one is January 21st
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy – met on November 21st, heard 2 student proposals, commission is asking for some adjustments to those proposals before we deliberate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Senator Harter): changed Adopt-a-Street to the 16th with Tie & Timber after, next meeting is same day at 1pm on zoom, still doing the Foster Adopt Connect drive
- Staff Activities (Senator Babb): Homecoming went well, gave away most of the 50 tickets they had; nothing planned for December, but on January 10th at College Station they are hosting a movie for staff – there will be an opportunity to vote (Field of Dreams, Spaceballs, Money Pit, Jurassic Park). We will cover tickets and popcorn. There will be a suite for basketball for senators only - Thursday Feb 12th for men's and Thursday January 22 for women's.
- Staff Development (Senator Phillips): not meeting this month, discussed satisfaction survey (see her email)

Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean): Meeting right after this meeting. Facilities is having a summit on the same day as the awards luncheon and this committee will do outreach there with a survey.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Bylaws – Parliamentarian Hader: if anyone has any bylaws additions or suggestions let him know before January since they will be bringing the bylaws up for approval in the spring
- b. Workgroups – Chair Bridges: CUPA Data/Institution of Choice is meeting on Dec. 11th and Strategic Plan Implementation Group meeting later this afternoon.
- c. Staff Satisfaction Survey results and table discussion – Gets reported to the Board of Governors in January and also to University Council. Bridges handed out results that compare year to year for a table discussion. Discussion: people are pretty happy despite the pay, but there isn't much option for advancement and promotion. Results of past surveys are on the Staff Senate website
- d. Ombuds reminder – Please promote this to everyone and spread the word that it is confidential - we want to utilize this as much as possible so that it stays around. Nothing gets reported to Biff, no records are kept, can even keep last name off of form to get appointment, they will report trends after about a year. The formal student grievance process is not going away; this is just an additional informal process.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. none

OPEN FORUM

- a. Ryan Reed – introducing the new Associate Director of Access and Success Programs, Tara Joyce.
- b. Everyone was able to talk about good things happening in their lives
- c. Discussion about the strategic plan survey to be a “great college to work for” - that survey will not go to everyone, it is a sample size.
- d. Discussion to talk about the “Achieve Meaningful Gains in Student and Employee Satisfaction” part of the strategic plan. One point was made that shared governance only mentions faculty. Need more internal communication within departments. More equitable access to the wellness programs, etc. Can fee waiver be done like shared leave and be shared? Evaluate the staff impact when facilities aren't maintained.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close December meeting at 12:45pm