



## STAFF SENATE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

**PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR CAMPBELL KEELE**

The Staff Senate held the February Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Keele called the session to order at 11:06 a.m.

Absences: Vicki Kramer JF1, Cassie Prock JF1, Justin Daugherty JF2, Rut Munoz Aliaga JF3, John Bogue JF4, Laura Derrick JF4

Guests: Denise Lofton, Morgan Marler, Stephanie Van Rhein. Lesa Anderson, Megan Schiller, Kelly Rapp, Tia Schneider

### GREETINGS

- Chair Keele welcomed everyone to the February Senate Meeting.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

- Matt Magruder - Updates from Admissions
  - Enrollment for First Time New in College (FTNIC) (up 2%) and transfer students (up 6%) is up for fall.
  - Matt Magruder is the new Director. Kristin Roop is the new Associate Director. Tai McCoy has been promoted to an Assistant Director role. They are hiring for a coordinator of events position.
  - A new survey given to prospective students after visiting indicates that 84% are more likely to attend MSU after visiting campus. 16% are just as likely.
- Michael Frizell – University College
  - A University College is being developed consisting of Student Learning Services and Student Success.
  - This college will help make sure we aren't repeating services on campus.
  - The hope is to start fall 2025 with a group in place with more to come in 2026.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## NEW SENATOR SWEAR IN

- Senator Balanean was sworn in.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: Provost search is moving forward with candidates for on campus interviews and open town halls. There is a Provost search open forum tomorrow in person or on Zoom. Feedback that you submit at the end is sent to Northwest Missouri State and complied to be anonymous unless you write your name in the comment, so share your opinion. Read President Williams' message from Tuesday – we are committed to serving students. It is ADP season so accept and plan for the next year. Recommendation to join blogs: Staff Senate, HR, Financial Aid News, and Administrative Services Notifications.
- Chair Elect: Elections are coming up in May. Senators whose terms are up will receive an email to see if they would like to run for reelection. There is an uneven disbursement of seats in some job families coming up for election owing to people moving around or leaving the university. A way to handle this may be to add something in the by-laws.
- Past-Chair: Staff Appreciation t-shirts on sale until 2/7/2025.
- Coordinator of Communications: No Report
- Coordinator of Committees: Sharon Harter is the new Chair of the Public Affairs committee.
- Secretary: Kathleen Hahn has a new job, and this is her last senate meeting. Secretary responsibilities will be split up in the executive board.
- Parliamentarian: Bylaws work group meets are scheduled over a few weeks with the goal of a draft in March and voting in April.

## EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION REPORTS

- Academic Calendar (Rigby): 2026 – 2027 academic calendar will not be aligned with SPS. It has gone to the Board of Governors for approval. Homecoming is not on that calendar because we are unsure when it will be. Homecoming for fall 2025 will be on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Administrative Budget Committee (Bridges) – No report.
- New Employee Welcome (Keele) – Williams' Welcome will have its first meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> for new employees and bear mentors.
- Employee Wellness (Martin) – subscribe to the blog and newsletter. They have different information. There is a new employee fitness program created with Dr. Goddard in the School of Health Sciences. The goal is to increase the number of participants each semester. The first semester there are 12 participants. There is open gym in McDonald Arena 116 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30-6 pm. All staff are welcome.
- Executive Budget (Keele): Tell Chair Keele if you have ideas for things that staff could ask for this year in case a raise is not possible.

- Faculty Senate (Bridges): They discussed policies in January and the February meeting is next week.
- Health Care & Benefits (Mings): Cost and use was up in 2024. Check your paycheck to make sure the right amount of money is coming out based on your open enrollment selections.
- Inclusion Awareness Team (Phillips) – No report.
- Inclusive Engagement Council (Derrick) – No report.
- IT Council (Bridges) – No report.
- President’s Council on Accessibility (Derrick): No report.
- Shared Leave (Daniels): Approved three cases, one parental leave.
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards: No report.
- Strategic Planning Committee (Hader): Met Monday and are recalibrating the mission statement based on recent changes. The next interactive workshop is at the end of the month. [Sign up.](#)
- Student Government (Niesen) – some inclusive engagement commendations were given. They are working on elections. Students need to pass a by-laws test before they can run for election.
- Sustainability Advisory Committee (Letterman) – No report.
- Sustainability Commission (Webster) – No report.
- Transportation Advisory (Metzger) – No report.
- University Council (Keele): Book discussion. [University Council has a website now.](#)
- University Space Allocation (Decker) – The underpass is supposed to reopen February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Art Annex is supposed to be done Fall 2026. The football stadium is getting new turf and signs. Senator Phillips mentioned that the temporary crosswalk does not beep, and Senator Hader will relay that message.
- Wall of Fame (Keele) – First meeting is February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- West Plains Staff Senate (Smith) – No report.
- Wyrick Commission (Webster) – No report.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Next meeting is February 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm on Zoom. April 4<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm is adopt a street -cleanup. April 21<sup>st</sup> 9-11 am in Library 207 is the President Williams book discussion. Book TBD. March 4<sup>th</sup> 4-6 pm in Library 206 is making hope notes for Ozarks Food Harvest. Bring markers and stickers if you can and join us.
- Staff Activities (Babb): June 20<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> are Springfield Cardinals games. March 15<sup>th</sup> is a tentative movie at the Alamo. March 6<sup>th</sup> is women’s basketball with the suite and free food. The January 11<sup>th</sup> Alamo event was successful despite snow. Next meeting is February 19<sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM in the library.
- Staff Development (Phillips): The next meeting was scheduled for Monday at 2:30 pm but there is a provost search meeting then, so it is canceled. Email Senator Phillips or Senator Helton with topics for recruitment and retention.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Think about how to handle elections with appointed positions.

## OPEN FORUM

- Guest Megan Schiller read a letter for Staff Senate.
- An LGBTQ group meeting is at 5 pm at MudLounge.

## ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to close February meeting by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.