



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: JULY 3, 2025

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR PHIL BRIDGES

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

Absences: JF1: Lesa Anderson, Margaret Osler; JF2: Justin Daughtery, Brian Grindstaff, Ingrid Hintze, Kirk Robinson; JF3: Joseph Cillessen, Rut Muñoz Aliaga; JF4 John Bogue, Shelly Deckard, Nicholas Horne, Sophia Raithel, Nicole Webster; Divisional Reps: DeeDee Mings, Stephanie Smith

Guests: (1) Adrian Balanean

GREETINGS

Chair Bridges welcomed everyone to the July Staff Senate Meeting

GUEST SPEAKERS

No guest speakers this month

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes were approved by unanimous consent

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Senate is now at 55 senators

Swearing-in of new exec board members, announced/recruited new appointees including new historian position (explained the position)

Mission, history and organization of Staff Senate & its committees (addition of workgroups) and the charge of senators

Review of last year's senate achievements/successes (on slide shared by Chair Bridges)

New senator welcome, introduction, and swearing-in

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair – Ombuds interviews start next week (3 – faculty, staff, student & one already chosen), Senator handbook was emailed out to all, tweaks to committees, workgroups and exec board, thank you to exec board, future guest speaker ideas requested
- Chair-Elect – nothing to report
- Past-Chair - nothing to report
- Coordinator of Communications - nothing to report
- Coordinator of Committees - nothing to report
- Secretary - nothing to report
- Parliamentarian – bylaws, announced free notebooks and pens for new senators

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION REPORTS

- Academic Calendar – Senator Bridges (none)
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-elect Webster (none)
- New Employee Welcome – Chair Bridges (happened earlier)
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: Blog went out today, “Freedom from Tobacco” program for Missouri residents, zoo is free tomorrow for veterans, new program “Bear Balance” on Wednesdays
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges (none)
- Faculty Senate – TBD – call for volunteers (need one or 2), start back on August 12th.
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges: Past Chair Keele shared positive news about shared leave pool exceeding the goal, 14 parental leave requests have been approved and more coming
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Phillips (+TBD?): representative is now Gabrielle Catlin
- IT Council – Chair Bridges (none)
- President’s Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick (none)
- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Muñoz Aliaga, Senator Jean (none)
- Staff Excellence in Service Awards – Senator Niesen, Past Chair Keele (none)
- Student Government – TBD – called for volunteers, may come from new outreach committee
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman (none)
- Sustainability Commission – Chair-elect Webster gave this up if anyone else wants it; Senator Niesen volunteered (no report)
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue (none)
- University Council – Chair Bridges, Past Chair Keele - New chief of staff, VP for enrolment management, changing ADP, international services changes (Chair Bridges emailed the minutes of this meeting out previously)
- University Space Allocation – Parliamentarian Hader (none)
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges (none)
- Williams Welcome – Chair Bridges: 1st one is July 30th
- West Plains Staff Senate – Trevor Cressman – they have reached out about staff activities
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy (none)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs – July 31st making hope cards, next Friday the 11th at 8am for Adopt A Street, next meeting on zoom on July 15th 3:00pm
- Staff Activities – meets every 3rd Wed at 1:30 in Library 303 (next meeting July 16th), just had Springfield cardinals game which had a long waitlist, there is another one on August 1st (sign-up will go out next week), more staff shirts are available for \$20, tailgates will be Sept 27th for first Conference USA game and Nov 15th for Homecoming and Veterans game, Staff Appreciation week was a success and would take feedback and suggestions for next year.
- Staff Development – Meets July 14th at 2pm in Carr 312 talked about new ideas for trainings for staff plus possible uses of non-degree credits.
- Staff Outreach – This committee will help Senate reach staff that it is harder to reach traditionally (part-timers, West Plains, 2nd & 3rd shift), brand new so next meeting time/date has not been determined.

QR code to join a committee was shared and will be emailed out. Need to fill out form whether changing or staying the same.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bylaws update from Parliamentarian Hader: workgroup feedback was that most of the changes should go into the handbook instead of Bylaws. A debate/vote on revisions will happen in August. Bylaws are on the Staff Senate website.

NEW BUSINESS

- Senator Handbook – was emailed by Chair Bridges, please review
- Budget – verbally approved by President Williams, same funding as last year, all committees have earmarked funding, details are on the slide shared by Chair Bridges. Budget was passed by a vote of the whole senate
- Chair Bridges is forming two new Ad hoc workgroups (will count as committee service)
 1. CUPA data and budget – to look at CUPA data and evaluate what we might want to advocate for as Staff Senate. Email Chair Bridges if you are interested.
 2. Strategic Plan implementation – so we can stay involved in the strategic plan on behalf of staff. Email Chair Bridges if you are interested.

OPEN FORUM

- Senator Martin added a Movement Challenge note about a reward/drawing for gift cards. All charges have been waived for yard waste disposal and landfill for Springfield residents.
- Past-Chair Keele added that there is an Instagram account for transfer students; please spread the word, “Transfer Visit Day” is next Friday, July 11th.
- Senator Phillips: BearPower social next week.
- Chair Bridges announced Conversation Circles for International students.
- Senator Helton – Gave her compliments to Chair Bridges from the floor on his first meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Bridges at 12:53pm

Next Meeting: August 7, 2025, at 11:00 in GLAS-486