



## STAFF SENATE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE: 11/6/2025**

**PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges**

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

Absences: JF1: Lesa Anderson; JF2: Justin Daugherty, Brian Grindstaff, Ingrid Hintze, Kem Yost; JF4: Mary Bolen, Nicholas Horn, Donna Murphy, Adam Niesen, Nicole Webster; Divisional Reps: Stephanie Smith

Guests: Tashiana Conklin, Melissa Tolleson, Gretchen Gawron, Lisa McEowen, Tracie Gielselman France, Emma Watkins, Denise Lofton (and SGA Rep Jada Smith)

### GREETINGS

Chair Bridges welcomed everyone to the November Staff Senate Meeting.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

#### I.

- a. Dr. Dawn Medley, VP of Enrollment Management  
Introduced Jeremy Dickenson – new assistant VP of admissions and outreach. Dawn has been here since August 1, she is revamping scholarship structure, lowering the renewal requirements to help students maintain, allowing renewal for a 5<sup>th</sup> year. Admissions office – looking at how we can expand our recruitment efforts, looking into adult student education and what we can do to expand that (more online degrees), looking at adults in Missouri who have some college but no degree – we need to reengage those adults as the birth rate drops. Says that all of us can help and be recruitment and retention specialists alongside them. We are the ones that can see the little issues that students might need help with. Also, when a tour group is nearby, introduce yourself and remember that we are the hosts. Her cell is (and we can text) 417-268-5246
- b. Senator DeeDee Mings, Human Resources – benefits and open enrollment. Not a lot of changes. Wellness incentive - last chance for biometrics on campus is November 10th with Mercy. Video has launched- Jason Coombs can help if you have any issues. Your discount may not show up until after open enrollment starts. Check December pay stub for dental and health. Check January pay stub for all other benefits. Newly added benefit is Samaritan Fund for someone who is struggling. Flexible spending (cafeteria plan) is a different system for signing up than the other benefits. Deedee went through all the benefits and voluntary plans we offer.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: Chair Bridges presented to the Board of Governors on 10/3; University Council meeting notes are being shared with Staff Senate - please be sure to share with others in your area! Noted that the next Strategic Plan oversight meeting is Monday Dec 1<sup>st</sup>; met with Pres. Williams and VP Matt Morris about budget; met with Faculty Senate budget committee; Presidential town hall is still coming this semester; Decided during this report to invite Bear Pantry to speak at December meeting and to have a donation drive for that meeting
- 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: Calendar usually aligns with SPS especially for major breaks but Fall start time is difficult since SPS starts a week later in August – so we will probably start a week before SPS for several years. Homecoming will continue to be late.
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: Has not met
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: Biometrics update, walk in flu clinic coming up at Magers on Nov 12th, next mammogram bus is full. Walking challenge is over. Pickleball is on Monday nights. Latin Roots is the last cooking talk for the year – registration opens on November 17th. 120 free massages appointments go live at 8 am on the 17th – event is on December 5th. Send records for Wellness Incentive to [Magersmedicalrecords@missouristate.edu](mailto:Magersmedicalrecords@missouristate.edu) not to HR.
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: did not meet
- Faculty Senate – Senators Ball and Van Rhein - No more general ed change committee, HLC oversight committee coming; Testing center - No proctoring in library anymore for online courses because focus is on Disability services - lots of frustration with this among faculty.
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: Med-Pay is rebranding as “Point C” in January. Wellness incentive reminders: schedule biometrics and/or a flu shot. Call if you want a Covid Shot. Health premiums will likely increase about 9%, dental will likely stay the same.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin: meeting tomorrow (11/7) 2-3pm in Magers counseling center.

- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy - canceled for Nov but last meeting they voted to use some SCUF funding for “Edvisory” contract proposed by Dawn Medley and Egon Heidendal - allows a quick transcript review for potential students without applying; SCUF innovation funding discussed; Reminder to make sure you have completed your cybersecurity training
- President’s Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: Held a tour of Blunt and its accessibility features, streamlined resources have increased.
- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga: approved 2 last month & need another representative for this.
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: nominees by Friday 11/7/2025!
- Student Government – Parliamentarian Hader and Chair Bridges: SGA Rep Jada Smith announced that it is SGA proposal season - Wyrick and sustainability; discussed a rent-a-gown program for commencement, Homecoming kick-off is starting!
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: MSU has a silver status. Trying to get gold on sustainability efforts.
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: met yesterday afternoon. Proposal for campus garden and hydration stations in library plus some help for the BearPantry. Composter purchase for dietary lab.
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: has not met
- University Council – Chair Bridges: see slides sent by Phil for full details.
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader: meeting later this month
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges: nothing to report
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: had updates from Zora; they now have a chair-elect - Lauren Willis; they are working on a strategic plan now as well.
- Williams’ Welcome – Chair Bridges – Next one on January 21st
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy – not met

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Ozarks food harvest volunteer time happened recently; Doing a donation drive for Foster Adopt Connect from November 17<sup>th</sup>-December 9<sup>th</sup>. Adopt-a-street is Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>. Also, a Book discussion with Provost TBA. Next meeting via zoom is Thursday Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm
- Staff Activities (Babb): Homecoming tailgate with Harbells wings; Still a couple more tickets available to homecoming (need gift in kind form); may partner with SGA or student activities in the future; next meeting is Nov 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in library
- Staff Development (Phillips): Looking at staff satisfaction survey and working alongside strategic planning workgroup; next meeting time is November 10<sup>th</sup> with no December meeting planned.
- Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean) - Nothing to report. Meeting after Staff Senate

## OLD BUSINESS

- a. Workgroups: CUPA data/Institution of Choice – Anyone interested in taking the logistics lead for this group? Same question on the Strategic Plan Implementation group.
- b. Ombuds - Office has launched. Direct Ombuds office email is [ombuds@missouristate.edu](mailto:ombuds@missouristate.edu) and the website is <https://www.missouristate.edu/President/Ombuds/default.htm> ; default meeting place is the PSU but can vary upon request. Can call cell phones as well – Mary is 417-771-0102 and Chris is 417-576-6444

## NEW BUSINESS

- a. New senator and vacancies update: New senator Gretchen Gawron was sworn in to fill a vacant JF4 seat. We also have another vacant JF4 seat, as well as one JF1 and two JF2 spots.
- b. Staff Satisfaction survey results and steps going forward: we will announce more after BoG sees the results; Another survey is likely coming from Strategic Planning
- c. Bear pantry – they have lost AmeriCorps volunteers so they need lots of help especially on Monday evenings; can sign up to volunteer off of their website; the current donation needs are non-perishable food, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, school supplies, and money.

## OPEN FORUM

- a. April Phillips - BearPower social event tomorrow.
- b. Campbell- non-traditional student week is 11/5-11/9
- c. Tour of the Globe, Friday, 11/7, at 5:30 pm at the Jim D. Morris Center
- d. Please email Phil or staff senate inbox if anything came up at new table discussion during Staff Senate today.
- e. Rob Ybanez updated us on post-baccalaureate registration starting November 5<sup>th</sup> non-degree seeking undergraduates start enrollment on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Go through Rob if you want to use your credit fee waiver to take courses but are non-degree seeking.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close November meeting at 12:51pm