



Report to MSU Board of Governors

October 3, 2025

Phil Bridges, Chair of Staff Senate 2025-2026; philbridges@missouristate.edu

Membership: These are our current membership numbers/available seats. This is the highest number of senators in Staff Senate history. We are looking into adding reps from each of the Colleges, as well.

- Job Family 1: 10/10
- Job Family 2: 9/11
- Job Family 3: 5/5
- Job Family 4: 23/24
- Divisional Reps: 8/8
- Total: 55 senators/58 seats

All four job families are represented on Staff Senate's Executive Board.

Focus on communication. One focus this year is on formalizing and expanding communication between staff, faculty, students, and administration in order to inform staff and foster collaboration. In addition to our Exec Board's monthly meeting with President Williams and VP Matt Morris, Staff Senate's Chair is meeting monthly with the Faculty Senate's Chair and the Student Government Association's President. In our meetings this fall, Senate has hosted reports or Q&A sessions from Ellen Currie of the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), Assc. Provost Kelly Wood and Deputy CIO Theresa McCoy about the ATLAS student support platform, AD Ransdell, Provost Phillips, Christina Bowles about Student Success Coaching, Megan Schiller about Banner updates, President Williams, Dean Jahnke about the HLC review and site visit, and Mary Bohlen and Dr. Chris Herr, our new ombudspeople. We appreciate each for sharing updates, taking questions, and giving time to connect with Staff.

Strategic Plan. Staff Senate has been involved in the Igniting Opportunity planning effort and continues to be involved in the implementation groups. Additionally, we have formed two temporary workgroups to work on topics related to the new strategic plan: the "Institution of Choice" workgroup and the "Strategic Plan Communication and Implementation" group. More to come from both of these groups!

Staff Satisfaction Survey. This survey goes out to staff every two years. It will be live in the middle of October. I will include response data in a later report.

Much of Staff Senate's action happens in its committees. This year, we have added a fourth standing committee, focused on outreach to underrepresented staff groups.

Outreach Committee

Lines of communication. The committee is working on ways to communicate directly with second- and third-shift employees, who are rarely participants in Staff Senate meetings.

Setting goals. Among the new committee's ideas are plans to celebrate national appreciation days, outreach to West Plains staff, and ways to show appreciation. More to come!

Activities Committee

BearFest Village partnership with Veteran's Student Center - September 27th. We will also share a tent with the VSC for the homecoming game.

Potential Action Items: Our committee chairs have met with AD Ransdell about increasing staff's presence at athletics events. The committee is also planning several social events this fall.

Public Affairs Committee

Adopt-A-Street: We cleaned Cherry Street east of campus on September 26th.

Leadership Book Club. We are working with new Chief of Staff Jamie Birch to arrange a book club with senators for later this fall.

Potential Action Items: We are looking into a competition of some sort among Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and Student Government Association to benefit the Bear Pantry. More to come!

Staff Development Committee

Staff Satisfaction. The committee is planning to follow up on the Staff Satisfaction Survey, to gather additional data, ideas, or clarification.

Professional Development. The committee is in conversations with Human Resources about potential ways to expand professional development opportunities for staff.

I am thankful for the hard work of the Staff Senate Executive Board, the Senators, and the many additional staff who attend our meetings and events and the support for Staff Senate across the university.