

**STAFF
SENATE GENERAL
SESSION**

**October 2, 2025
11:00PM-1:00PM
GLASS HALL 486**



AGENDA

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Guest Speaker
- III.** Review of Minutes
- IV.** Executive Board Reports
- V.** External Representation Reports & Assignments
- VI.** Committee Reports
- VII.** Old Business
- VIII.** New Business
- IX.** Open Forum
- X.** Adjournment

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- I. Call to Order
- II. Guest Speaker – Dr. Richard “Biff” Williams – President
- III. Review of Minutes
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- II. Guest Speaker – Dean Tamera Jahnke – CNAS, HLC Steering Committee
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- II. Guest Speakers – Senator Mary Bohlen and Dr. Chris Herr – University Ombuds
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Good Things

Promotions, Achievements, Awards...

An interlude

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Chair's Report

- State of the University on 9/22. I made a joke!

- New happenings – lots of new buildings, explore campus
- Census is mixed... more to come
- Strategic Plan – share information, questions, concerns, etc.
- Upcoming guest speakers –in November: DeeDee Mings, VP of Enrollment Management Dawn Medley
- Good meeting with Faculty Senate Chair and SGA President – more to come in new business
- Board of Governor's meeting tomorrow

Executive Board Reports

- Chair-elect
- Past Chair
- Coordinator of Committees
- Coordinator of Communication
- Secretary
- Historian

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Academic Calendar Committee

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: To coordinate preparation of the University's academic calendar and then to present the calendar to the Board of Governors for approval.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates: Will meet on October 16

Administrative Budget Committee

Representative: Chair-Elect Webster

Purpose: To review and recommend appropriate budget actions for campus administrative areas.

Commitment: Length of term

Updates: Currently not meeting.

Employee Wellness Committee

Representative: Senator Martin

Purpose: To create a campus climate that embraces a Wellness philosophy as an integral part of the Missouri State University health care and public affairs missions.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Executive Budget Committee

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: To receive input from the academic and administrative budget committees and the West Plains campus, as well as intercollegiate athletics, and those vice presidents with auxiliary and/or designated accounts.

To determine the budget level assigned to the various colleges and administrative units, including intercollegiate athletics and auxiliary units.

Commitment: Length of Term

Update: Has not met. Workgroup is gathering data and we will talk about priorities in the December meeting.

Faculty Senate

Representative: Senators Ball and Van Rhein

Purpose: Attend meetings as liaison with Faculty Senate and report back each month. These are generally held on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons.

Next meeting is 10/16 at 3:30pm in PSU 313.

Update: President spoke, highlighting 1) strategic plan, 2) operational excellence, 3) campus sustainability (facilities, finances, and personnel), and engaging stakeholders; Provost spoke, focusing on student success and governance; Deans Stroebel and Richards spoke; presentation on gender equity in STEM grant (that was discontinued w/ federal funding pull); curricular and gen. ed updates

Health Care & Benefits Committee

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: To examine and make recommendations concerning the University's employee group health care plans.

Commitment: Length of Term

Updates: Met this month. Med-pay is rebranding as "Point C" in January. No changes other than name. Wellness incentive reminders. Schedule biometrics and/or flu shot. Call if you want a Covid shot. Health premiums will likely increase ~9% (\$4 - \$56/month depending on plan); dental likely will stay the same; our plans and costs are still great compared to peers; more info to come

Inclusion Awareness Team

Representative: Senator Catlin

Purpose: The Student Affairs Inclusion Awareness Team works collaboratively to promote and elevate MSU diversity efforts.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

IT Council

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: The Missouri State Information Technology Council (IT Council) was created by the university's president to be responsible for planning, coordinating, and reviewing major strategic information technology initiatives for the Missouri State System.

Commitment: Two Year Appointment

Update: Meets Tuesday, 10/7

President's Council on Accessibility

Representative: Senator Derrick

Purpose: Enhance the full participation of individuals with disabilities in the campus community by serving as an advisory and oversight committee regarding accessibility issues.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Shared Leave Committee

Representatives: Senator Mallonee, Senator Muñoz Aliaga, Senator Helton

Purpose: The committee will review all applications for the Shared Leave Pool (SLP) and shall follow the criteria set out in this policy to approve or disapprove the request for SLP benefits. The committee's decision is final.

Commitment: Varies

Updates?

Staff Excellence in University Service Awards Committee

Representative: Senator Niesen + Past Chair Keele

Purpose: To select from nominated staff recipients of the Staff Senate Excellence in Service to the University award.

Commitment: Two Year Appointment

Updates? Submit nominees by November 7 -
<http://missouristate.edu/seusa/>



Student Government Association

- **Representative:** Volunteer to attend a meeting (Tuesdays at 5:30 in the PSU)
- **Purpose:** Attend SGA meetings as liaison. Report back to Staff Senate.
- **Commitment:** Sign up to make sure most or all meetings are covered.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Representative: Senator Emily Letterman

Purpose: 1) Monitor and report out on sustainability initiatives completed by MSU Faculty, Staff, and Students; 2) Monitor committee-developed realistic strategies to earn high ratings from AASHE, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; 3) Be a leader in sustainability initiatives across our state and region; 4) Monitor and benchmark our work related to sustainability initiatives.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Sustainability Commission

Representative: Benjamin Wilkins

Purpose: The Sustainability Commission administers the Sustainability Fund. The purpose of the Sustainability Fund is to provide the means to implement student-initiated projects on the Missouri State University-Springfield campus that focus on sustainability initiatives that lessen the negative environmental impact of the University.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Transportation Advisory Committee

Representative: Senator Bogue

Purpose: To review the University transportation policies, regulations, and the fee schedule and make recommendations to the VP for Administration and Finance.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

University Council

Representative: Chair Bridges, Past Chair Keele

Commitment: Length of term

Notes emailed next week after October 7 meeting

University Space Allocation Advisory Committee

Representative: Parliamentarian Hader

Purpose: The Committee is to meet at the call of the chair, typically monthly, to review the status of current space allocations, recommend actions regarding requests for new or additional space, and consider requests for modifications of existing space.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Wall of Fame

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: The Wall of Fame is a designated location for the University to recognize and honor employees that have excelled at Missouri State University and significantly contributed to the success and positive collegiate experience of students.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates: no meeting

West Plains Staff Senate

Representative: West Plains Chair Trevor Cressman

Purpose: Liaison from the West Plains Campus

Commitment: Length of term

Updates:

<https://blogs.wp.missouristate.edu/staffsenate/2025/09/11/staff-senate-meeting-minutes-september-11-2025/>

“Williams’ Welcome”

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: Bear Connection's mission is to integrate new Staff to the culture of Missouri State University and connect them to the university's mission and values through networking and events.

Commitment: Length of term

Update: Next will be October 15

Wyrick Commission

Representative: Secretary Piercy

Purpose: The Wyrick Student Project Fund Commission shall be established as an executive commission of the Student Government Association. This commission shall administer the Wyrick Fund program.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

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Public Affairs Committee

Purpose: The Public Affairs Committee is charged with coordinating activities and developing proposals to produce citizens of enhanced character that contribute to the University community and society, and demonstrate civility in thought, speech and action.

The Public Affairs Committee is responsible for

- Promoting the public affairs mission and events/activities that support it
- Facilitating Cherry Street Adopt a Street
- Coordinating a leadership book series at least once a semester
- Coordinating donation drives as opportunity arises
- Reporting updates to the Coordinator of Staff Senate Committees.

Next meeting:

Staff Activities Committee

Purpose: The Staff Activities Committee is charged with facilitating, planning and coordinating Staff Senate organized events, fundraising for Staff Senate Scholarship funds, and coordinating with University partners in the hosting of Staff Appreciation Week (in June).

The Staff Activities Committee is responsible for:

- Planning staff events through the year
- Creating new fundraising opportunities for the Staff Senate Scholarship
- Coordinating participation for staff at MSU events, including athletics
- Reporting updates to the Coordinator of Staff Senate Committees.

Next meeting:

Staff Development Committee

Purpose: The Staff Development Committee is charged with coordinating and raising awareness of opportunities for Staff to grow professionally, as well as pursuing opportunities to improve recruitment and retention of staff and participating in the Strategic Plan implementation to improve the university's standing as an employer of choice.

The Staff Development Committee is responsible for

- Partnering with other MSU entities to present a professional development opportunity at least once a semester
- Leading research into Senate initiatives to improve conditions for Staff
- Working with the Chair and Chair-Elect to deploy, promote, and interpret the biannual Staff Satisfaction Survey
- Working with any ad-hoc committees charged with addressing staff satisfaction

Next meeting:

Staff Outreach Committee

Purpose: The Staff Outreach Committee is charged with connecting with, hearing from, and serving groups that Senate has typically had trouble reaching. These include, but are not limited to, part-time staff, 2nd and 3rd shift staff, West Plains Staff Senate, SGA and faculty.

The Staff Outreach Committee is responsible for:

- Identifying barriers to participation in campus activities for 2nd and 3rd shift staff.
- Creating and promoting accessible avenues for engagement tailored to varying shift schedules.
- Collaborating with other committees to ensure shift-inclusive communications and event planning.
- Reporting updates to the Coordinator of Staff Senate Committees

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Old business

No more spoilers on awards that haven't been announced yet...

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New Business

- Updates
 - CUPA data workgroup → Institution of Choice for Employees workgroup
 - Strategic plan workgroup
 - Will meet this month
 - If you are on a strategy work group, can you join the committee or at least keep us updated?
- Bear Pantry – lots of student need, no more Americorps help
 - Interest from Faculty Senate and SGA to do a competition... Ideas for how to do it?
 - Needs include (non-perishable) food, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, school supplies, money and volunteers (especially on Monday evenings)

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