



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 4/2/2026

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges

The Staff Senate held the April Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Bridges called the session to order at 11:10am

Absences: JF2: Gene Brewer, Justin Daugherty, Ingrid Hintze, Paula Jean, Kem Yost; JF3: Joseph Cillessen, Stacey Stopczynski; JF4: Nicholas Horne, Donna Murphy, Adam Niesen, Sophia Rathel, Holly Reynolds; Divisional Reps: Stephanie Smith

Guests: Tashiana Conklin, Laura Anderson, Breno Viani, Emma Watkins, Lisa McEowen, Diavion Mayhew

GREETINGS

GUEST SPEAKERS

I.

- a. MarCom updates: Andrea Mostyn interim VP of Marketing and Communications – made up of Creative Services, Strategic Communication, Video Marketing, and Web Strategy and Development. Brand website has resources like free images for the campus to use for promotions and hashtags that are approved. Brand updates – keeping Bear Head Logo, MO State logo for athletics, Missouri State wordmarks; use sparingly: Walking Bear, Carrington Logo, University Seal; remove M and MSU logos. There will be a new tagline in the fall and a full brand refresh. The items that are being removed go ahead and remove from your email signature, etc. Maroon should be the primary color with allowed secondary and tertiary colors, no more pop accents. This could all change slightly in the fall. OK to leave everything alone until fall, but on new items be careful and use only approved logos and colors. “Inside Missouri State” comes out every Tuesday morning, they are revamping it so it will look different sometime later this Spring to make it more scannable. They are also going to start using Outlook to send it so it may correct some technical issues as well. If you have info that you want to include, send it to StrategicCommunications@MissouriState.edu Also, mass emails should still be used sparingly but they are encouraging more targeted emails – send them any questions you have about this.

- b. Counseling Center Mythbusting: Dr. Allicia Baum, Director, and Laura Foster, Mental Health Clinician – this is for Students only and has expanded a lot in the last few years, with a strong increase in licensed therapists with different specialties. They also have GAs working on mental health master's or PhD that can provide services with guidance. They have a program to help students with practicums and that has helped with the wait list at the center. In fact, currently there is NO waitlist. Step care model that helps place students where they need to go within the clinic: Guided Self-Help, Groups/Workshops, Case Management, Counseling/Therapy. Student Services fees pay for clinic (along with university support) so it is free to students - no fees, no insurance required. M-F 8-5 but there is a service called Protocol that students can call anytime to get help (staff can also call to get help for a student and it can be anonymous). They can also do outreach to any area on campus to talk about your interactions with students and can even do training.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent with the amendment of a change of incorrect year on the first page.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: Great colleges survey deadline has been extended to midnight tomorrow night, there is another survey about professional development that just came out from Goal 3 work group. Exec Board was last week – 360 VP evaluation didn't go to everyone and is semi-anonymous. CFO interviews this week; progress should be happening soon. Pushing for more staff senate rep on Exec Budget Committee. Exec Budget report – situation is no worse than we prepared for, also no better. Possibility of a change in how state funding is figured and it would help us a lot if it were to happen. Will likely have a 4 or 5% tuition increase. Chair Bridges had a CUPA data meeting with Scott Scobee and Egon to discuss info that Staff Senate would like to have in order to make recommendations and see imbalances – info might be available by mid-summer.
- Chair Elect: Still in the nomination cycle for new senators and new committee co-chairs. Think about possible new senators. Looking for Coordinator of Committees, Coordinator of Communications, and chair elect nominations. Want co-chairs for committees to help take the load off. Remember that new senators can become committee chairs. Asked for ideas about historian position and if that should continue.
- 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: finalized calendar for 2027-2028 went out in email on 3/23/2026 – we will keep the 10 days off over winter break (breaking the precedent of starting back when the MO legislature does).
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: did not met
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: Magers flyers handed out today for employees (no student information on this one). Magers website is getting updated and cleaned up. Walking challenge is happening now, Route 66 Parade pre-party on May 1st, “You’ve Been Beared” is a student affairs fundraiser to fill an office with Bears, de-stress fest is being planned with free chair massages and other giveaways.
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: Meeting on 4/8 – notes for that meeting will be sent out with minutes and University Council updates will be sent out as well.
- Faculty Senate – Senators Ball and Van Rhein – Chair of faculty senate Foster was in attendance: first PhD proposal for MSU comes through next week, resolution will be coming out soon because of pushback about what the state legislature says can be taught in classrooms, approved some curricular proposals, Dr Heidi Backes in RCASH will take over in May.
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: met last week – Pont C is still moving forward. Upper leadership has now moved to monthly meetings but there is still a backlog. Shared leave pool is in a good spot.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin: no update
- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy: voted to approve SCUFF budget and talked about a new SCUFF innovation fund
- President’s Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: nothing to report
- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga, Senator Jean: one parental leave & one recurring case approved, and in good shape. \$175,235.98 as of January which is a good place to be.
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: no report
- Student Government – rotating: SGA reps Mia Ray and Addie Kimmerle: prepping a letter to the president about fees and new refund schedule (after first week, 50%, \$225 SOAR, grad fee), student seat on BOG has been vacant too long and is affecting transparency. Student body elections - had an extremely successful turnout and Addie Kimmerle won for SGA pres. Wyrick Proposal did not pass.
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: nothing to report
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: nothing to report
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: nothing to report
- University Council – Chair Bridges: meets next week. Agenda mentions new committee members, new director of admissions and new director of the testing center, fee schedule and TIO and Upward Bound discussion.
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader: have not met
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges: announcements to come at 4pm today

- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: no update; check blog at <https://blogs.wp.missouristate.edu/staffsenate/>
- Williams' Welcome – Chair Bridges: will meet again in about a month
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy: no update (did not pass in Student Body elections).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Day of Caring on June 18th, Adopt-A-Street rescheduled to April 24th at 3:30pm. Meeting to make Hope Cards again on April 27 at 3:30 in KMPT Conference room; Spring Donation Drive going now. Next meeting on Tuesday April 14th
- Staff Activities (Babbs): met yesterday, picked out movies for us to vote on: National Treasure, Goonies, Remember the Titans, Napoleon Dynamite. Vote taken and Goonies was #1 and National Treasure was #2. Date and time TBA. Sign-up for the Mizzou/MSU Baseball game was sent out (the game is April 15 at 6:30), August 28th will be the Springfield Cardinals Game. Next meeting is 4/15 at 1:30 in Library 303
- Staff Development (Helton, Phillips): nothing to report. Next meeting 4/13 at 2.
- Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean) – 2nd and 3rd shift employees are getting goody bags for promotion purposes. Meeting after this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Thank you for participating in the HLC meetings. Senator Bohlen added that the preliminary report will be out in 6-8 weeks. It may be July when we get a decision and then we have 2 weeks to respond to that. Site Team chair said that in 10 years of doing this, this was the most participation that they had ever seen
- 2) Elections – please nominate people: there will be approximately 2 seats for JF 1, 4 seats for JF 2, 2 seats in JF3 and 8 seats in JF4. Can email staff senate Chair Bridges or Chair-Elect Webster or the general staff senate email. Please let Secretary Piercy know if you are up for reelection.
Call for Nominations from Parliamentarian Hader: Senator Letterman was nominated to be Coordinator of Communications and John Bogue was nominated to be Coordinator of Committees, both by Kelly Schlinder.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Galen asked about a wine and cheese event timing for fall semester (to meet new vendors). It was suggested that the 2nd week of the semester might be best.

OPEN FORUM

- 1) Mia Ray is a student employee in office of the registrar (and SGA) and won student employee of the year
- 2) April 15th April Phillips is showing a documentary The Ride of Head? In the PSU theatre

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close April meeting at 1:00pm