



## STAFF SENATE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE: 8/6/2026**

**PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Misty Webster**

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

Absences: JF1: Charles Babb, Austin Ball, Krysta Smith; JF2: : Josh Chadwick, Justin Daugherty, Kirk Robinson, Kem Yost; JF4: Sierra Chitwood, Galen Martin, Rheanna Pulley, Ryan Reed, Holly Reynolds, Kelly Schlinder, Morgan Townsend; Div Reps: DeeDee Mings, Stephanie Smith; College Reps: Garrett Kirk

Guests: Tashiana Conklin, Katie Brackett, Chris Edwards, Angela Goerndt, Jade Morris, Campbell Keele, Ashley Pearce

## GREETINGS

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### I.

- a. Katie Brackett Assistant Director of University Advancement Operations: Grand Opening of the Advancement Center will be Homecoming week. Exterior – South and North entrances, planning for potential outdoor events, large Bear head that people can sit in. South Entrance will have a visitor parking area. Terracotta tile from Spain that is the maroon area. The South entrance will have the Hive of Bear Pride (honeycombs). “GoBears” lighted sign faces National Avenue – good spot for photos. Interior – showed floor plan, downstairs is all open and interactive except a couple of offices. Mercy Traditions Hall, Garnett Family Bears Den, Kenneth E. Meyer Event Center, etc. Shared a QR code about sharing your photos for the grand opening. Gave information about renting the event center – that is the only space for rent in the building. Second floor is all of the offices, Athletic Development, Alumni, Donor relations, VP office named after Brent Dunn. There is a new, improved website for the UAC as well.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: Chair Webster shared her appreciation of everyone who signed up for an external committee or volunteered to be an internal committee chair. There were enough to have subs added in case of need. Breast Cancer luncheon will be October 13 and Teri Trickey and Jamie Birch are looking for servers/helpers. State of the University address will be October 2 at noon. Boomer's Block Party is going to be August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 and all are welcome. AI Facilities Summit was yesterday, and VP Morris and David Hall promoted Staff Senate participation; goal 3 of the strategic plan was also discussed.
- Chair Elect: nothing to report
- Past-Chair: nothing to report
- Coordinator of Committees: nothing to report
- Coordinator of Communications: reminded everyone to subscribe to blog in order to stay up-to-date on events.
- Secretary: nothing to report
- Parliamentarian: nothing to report

## EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION REPORTS

- Academic Calendar – Chair Webster: did not meet
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Bohlen: did not meet
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: August wellness schedule is on the website – look at that and check it out.
- Executive Budget – Chair Webster: not meet
- Faculty Senate – Senators VanRhein, Ball: has not met
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Webster, Senator Mings: there is a delay in the Point C portal that was supposed to roll out on August 1<sup>st</sup>; it is on standby, but the current one is still working.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Harter: has not met
- IT Council – Chair-elect Bohlen, Senator K. Piercy: toured COB and Dean David Meinert took them around Glass and Kemper to see all the labs for Construction Management, Interior Design, etc.
- Large Events Coordination – Senator Reed- nothing to report.
- President's Council on Accessibility – Senator DePriest: nothing to report

- Shared Leave – Senators Mallonee, Evans, Jean: 5 cases and approved them all
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Senators Niessen, Bowles – not met yet
- Student Government – Senators Culbertson, Elkins, Townsend, Watkins, Brewer: Nothing to report
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: have not met.
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: nothing to report.
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: nothing to report but Bogue did bring up the concern about both parking garages being closed at the same time to the proper folks.
- University Council – Chair Webster: Past-Chair Bridges presented info about the meeting - Students will start moving in on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Bear Wear Fridays are being pushed this year, they had same advancement center presentation that we had today, announced Pell Grant changes that will really affect students and major government changes to duration of status with students here on Visas - Please be supportive of international students and direct them to International Services about anything – dropping/adding classes, travel, etc. Also, President Williams said to look for silver linings and good things.
- University Space Allocation – Parliamentarian Hader – met yesterday and upcoming moves discussed. Campus expansions south of Grand is being discussed.
- Wall of Fame – Chair Webster: has not met
- West Plains Staff Senate – Senator Mings: not set up yet
- Williams' Welcome – Chair Webster, Chair-elect Bohlen: Senator Keele was there and she said it was short but there were lots of questions and interactions.
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy – nothing to report

## INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Public Affairs (Harter/Watkins): book discussion coming up for the Public Affairs Committee on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Meyer Library room 207 at 2 pm. Next meeting on Zoom on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Survey went out to committee members last week about meetings. Looks likely to be 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday every month. There will be a volunteer sign-up coming out for the Bear Pantry for inventory, shelving and shopper support.
- b) Staff Activities (Mallonee/Babb): Thank you for signing up for August 28<sup>th</sup> Baseball game – huge response! Some people didn't get tickets but hopefully they can get more next year. Welcome Back event at Foster rec center organized with Magers TONIGHT 6-8pm. Sunday Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> tailgate party for soccer games, with burgers provided (please RSVP). Tailgate for Heroes Day game – football game is at 6pm. Committee meets on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1:30 Library 303.
- c) Staff Development (VanRhein/Anderson): discussion about having a staff book swap at the end of the semester, trying to focus on some items from the strategic plan, may have some workgroups. Will announce soon when meetings will be.

- d) Staff Outreach (Shlinder/Martin) Chair Webster: Grizzly summit will be on August 10<sup>th</sup> & Staff Senate has a table to promote West Plains Senate. Will try to reach out to Mtn. Grove as well.
- e) Goal 3 Committee (Bridges/Reed): splitting into focused groups - subgroup 1: CUPA data and transparency; subgroup 2: strategy for pay raises and bad budget years; subgroup 3: employee recognition and shared governance; subgroup 4: looking at all the other details from Goal 3 and what our priorities are.

## OLD BUSINESS

- a. Communication – Chair Webster asked about preferences for how to communicate. Please send her any feedback.
- b. Called for nominations on coordinator of committees – there was only one nomination and it was for Kelly Schlinder from the previous meeting, and no further nominations were made. Parliamentarian Hader moved to close nominations and elect the candidate by unanimous consent. No objections were noted; Kelly Schlinder was elected coordinator of committee. She will speak at next meeting as to her plans for the position.

## NEW BUSINESS

- a. Swearing in of new senators, Serena Whorton and Alicia Baum, that were not here last month.

## OPEN FORUM

- a. Good News, Bad News: The first football game is against Texas A&M. Shout-out to computer services for dealing with the Zoom problem. Reminder to subscribe to the Employee Discount blog. Call to come to Fab, Fit and Fun on Tuesday and Thursday.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close August meeting at 12:23pm