



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 2/5/2026

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges

The Staff Senate held the February Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Bridges called the session to order at 11:06am.

Absences: JF1: Krysta Smith; JF2: Justin Daugherty, Ingrid Hintz, Kem Yost; JF3: Rut Munoz Aliaga, Megan Schiller; JF4: Laura Derrick, Nicholas Horne, Donna Murphy, April Phillips, Rheanna Pulley; Divisional Reps: Stephanie Smith

Guests: Tashiana Conklin, Denise Lofton, Laura Anderson, Lisa McEowen, Jessica Mcshan, Holly Keehner

GREETINGS

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Senator Stephanie Smith: Hive of Bear Pride outside the Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center. Available in three sizes. If you purchase a personalized honeycomb plaque by July 1st it will be in place by grand opening in November 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: Staff Satisfaction Survey info is informing Strategic Plan Goal number 3 – that is the most important for staff, so we will keep pushing. Board of Governors Meetings are 2/19 and 2/20. Next Exec Board Meeting is 2/18. Strategic Plan Oversight meeting was Feb 3rd. Executive Budget Committee - first meeting on 2/17.
- Chair Elect: Nothing to report
- Past-Chair: Nothing to report
- Coordinator of Committees: nothing to report
- Coordinator of Communications: nothing to report
- Secretary: Emails about reelection went out today; gauging interest in running again before calling for nominations in about a month
- Parliamentarian: nothing to report
- Historian: no report

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION REPORTS

- Academic Calendar – Chair Bridges: next meeting February 10th.
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: not met
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: marketing push for buying over-the-counters at Magers pharmacy, it is much cheaper than Wal-Mart; Upcoming events: Chocolate Lovers Luncheon on 2/13, Stop the Bleed on 2/18. Remember that most of the programming is hybrid for students and staff (part time and emeritus); can print out Point-C card on the portal.
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: meeting coming up on February 17th
- Faculty Senate – Senator Van Rhein: Career Center spoke at last Faculty Senate meeting; discussed new academic programs; talked about using AI and the ethics in using AI and which department would be the authority on this. Budgets were discussed as well.
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: please see DeeDee’s email with detailed information on Point C. People should be receiving Point C cards in the mail. Continue to share any issues with Senator Mings and Staff Senate mailbox. HR blog is still a great resource as well. There is a new Virtual Benefit Fair for new hires. Shared leave is in good shape. HR is compiling a list of perks and benefits available to full and part-time employees as part of the Strategic Plan – if there is something in your department that benefits employees, let Senator Mings know.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin and Phillips: event this afternoon at 2:30pm that is a 1-hour session on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and strategies for supporting students in academic and high-intensity settings
- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy: met this week, account life cycle changes for emeritus employees and former students for email as well as Microsoft suite. Revisions to the technology policy

(mass communication) and student computer usage fee discussion.

- President's Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: no report
- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga, Senator Helton: approved an updated case and a couple of parental leave cases.
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: form for nominations opens again in March
- Student Government – Parliamentarian Hader and Chair Bridges: 8 student organization constitutions approved, failed one. Please pick up a meeting in the future.
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: meets at end of February
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: no report
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: no report
- University Council – Chair Bridges: went over pregnancy-related policies, safety gave updates (same info as last senate meeting), Giving Day is coming up, account life cycle policy updates given, PhD programs were discussed, internal communication (MarCom)
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader : many places downsizing and shifting may be happening but nothing is official yet.
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges : early April meeting
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: enrollment is flat which is good (see updates blog)
- Williams' Welcome – Chair Bridges – one happened yesterday, next one on April 17th.
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy – described Steinway for the Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center that was approved for this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Hope Cards coming up on Feb 25th, Adopt a Street on March 27th, book discussion with Provost Phillips on April 1st at 9am. Thin Book of Trust – we will order 20 copies please let Senator Harter know if you want a book.
- Staff Activities (Babb): movie at College Station went well, good turn-out; may do another one late Spring/early summer; waiting for confirmation on the next Basketball game; mark your calendars for April

14th for MSU vs Mizzou baseball game. Spfd Cardinals dates will be announced soon. Pineapple Whip for Staff Appreciation Week again. Next meeting on the 18th in Library 303 at 1:30pm

- Staff Development (Helton, Phillips): No update
- Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean/Yost): meeting today after this meeting as usual; results from survey are starting to come in (facilities meeting and now part-time staff)

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Bylaws: main change is to allow for additional Senators appointed by Deans to represent colleges; cleaning up grammar can still happen even if approved because of this language: “Move to approve the bylaws by unanimous consent allowing for grammar and stylistic changes to be made by executive committee as needed and pending presidential cabinet review.”
New Bylaws were approved by unanimous consent at meeting.
- b. Staff Senate Budget Updates: Food budget is \$9970 and we will have spent \$10,245.82 by end of fiscal year - would like to use extra \$275.82 from reserves. Phil suggested to allocate \$500 for food to make sure we are well covered.
Voted on this – passed by unanimous consent.
Discussion on priorities for extra money, possibilities for philanthropy, suggestion to get cool giveaway items for staff appreciation week. Asking for proposals by April, voting in May.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. New Nigerian Restaurant, New alpha-gal restaurant Safe-Spoon
- b. Staff has lost the ability to use the pool in Hammons Student Center, but can still work out for free in McDonald Arena.

OPEN FORUM

- a. Good things: New license plate reader has arrived in parking, City Council in SPFD is talking about tenants wrongfully evicted to allow legal free representation, moving toward campaign contribution limits in local elections, PLUS it's Girl Scout Cookie TIME!
- b. Advisor Forum Schedule has been published – enrollment management and the office of the registrar are featured; these are not just for advisors.
- c. Senator Bohlen: Please keep March 30-31st open – the Higher Learning Commission review site visit will be happening (exact times coming later)
- d. Senator Ybanez: Accepting applications for Non-degree seeking now

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close February meeting at 12:27pm