



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 1/8/2026

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges

The Staff Senate held the January Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Bridges called the session to order at 11:08

Absences: JF1: Rob Ybanez; JF2: Justin Daugherty, Ingrid Hintze, Paula Jean, Kirk Robinson; JF4: John Bogue, Nicolas Horne, Donna Murphy, Reanna Pulley, Sophia Raithel, Stephanie Van Rhein, Nicole Webster; Divisional Reps: DeeDee Mings, Gabrielle Catlin

Guests: Laura Anferson, Tashiana Conklin, Laura Foster, Amy Goodwin, Lisa McEowen, Breno Viani, Cindy Fiedler, CW Tillman

GREETINGS

GUEST SPEAKERS

I.

- a. Rob Rowley, Director of University Safety: new more visible uniforms starting next week and new patrol vehicles are in service; LPR (license plate reader) mounted on safety vehicles to read the plate and see if they are in MSU's database with a paid permit so the officer can place a citation on vehicle – there will be no more physical permits once this has been fully implemented (guest speaker permits will still be an option). Keeping this in-house instead of contracting out means they can still be lenient with special circumstances and can still give warnings at the beginning of semester. Will allow multiple license plates in the system. Plan on full implementation in fall but this spring is for working out the bugs and they will be giving a lot of grace on tickets. Still an option for no-ticket days on lots for big events. Parking enforcement is important for fairness and for availability of spots, also the budget for parking and parking lots is self-funded. Please send emails with feedback to parking@missouristate.edu
 - Don't forget about BearShield app as a way to communicate issues in the parking lots as well as safety issues. Can send pictures in the app under "Submit a Tip". The "Slide for Emergency" option works like a panic button – you don't have to talk to use it (this is the only time that they can see your location while you are in the app).
 - Transportation Services - new rental vehicles in the fleet now (7 passenger vans and 12 passenger vans). Can pick up and drop off at all hours.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: (photo of slide) Staff Satisfaction survey will be presented at the University Council on 1/13. CFO hiring committee is coming up and Chair has asked about Staff Senate representation, 1/26 is next Exec Board meeting – tell Chair if you have anything that you want to discuss or share with President Williams; 2/3/2026 is next Strategic Plan oversight meeting.
- Chair Elect: Nothing to report
- Past-Chair: Nothing to report
- Coordinator of Committees: Nothing to report
- Coordinator of Communications: Nothing to report
- Secretary: no report
- Parliamentarian: Pins and pom-poms are available for those who didn't attend the Staff Appreciation banquet yesterday
- Historian: no report

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION REPORTS

- Academic Calendar – Chair Bridges: 2027-2028 calendar is nearly finalized, and MSU will likely start a week earlier than SPS
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: not been formed
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: Personal Training, can use non-credit fee waiver; pickleball is still Monday nights except holidays; there is a free smoking cessation program through the state; human trafficking and stalking presentation coming up on Jan 26th; Feb 2nd is women's self-defense with dinner provided; Yoga retreat is available for anyone on March 28th; all the staff programming started this week. Send any ideas for programming to Galen Martin.
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: did not meet but State of the State address is next week.
- Faculty Senate – Senators Ball and Van Rhein: reviewed giving an honorary doctorate; clinical faculty issues were discussed; still talking about Testing Center and what that will look like in the future
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: had updates on Point C – the portal is still experiencing issues, customer service representatives are being added from the broader organization (not just in Springfield), reach out to Point C if the portal isn't updated or a claim hasn't been resolved from when the system was down; OVERALL - please email detailed concerns and stories of issues with Point C to the Staff Senate email address.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Phillips: IAT event coming up with panelists and presenters on the topic focusing on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Considering the date of 2/5/2026 for this.
- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy: did not meet in December, soon they will be looking into account life cycle
- President's Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: no report

- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga, Senator Helton: approved all cases that were presented
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: the event happened yesterday
- Student Government – Parliamentarian Hader and Chair Bridges: Applications for student governor closes tomorrow; student body election process starts Monday; please sign up to help cover this meeting on Tuesdays
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: meets in February
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: no report
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: no report
- University Council – Chair Bridges: will meet on Tuesday
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader : will meet in February
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges : no report
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: no report
- Williams’ Welcome – Chair Bridges – will meet again January 21st in Union Club
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy – vote happened but no results yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Adopt a Street in December and took donations for Foster Adopt Connect before break, next meeting is over Zoom on 1/15/2026
- Staff Activities (Babb): Can still sign-up for the movie and there is still plenty of room. Basketball game offer will go out after this meeting: Jan 22nd (and there will be another next month).
- Staff Development (Helton, Phillips): Will meet Monday at 2pm

Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean/Yost): introduction letter to send to staff, and initial launch of Outreach survey for JF2 employees

OLD BUSINESS

- a. CUPA data and Institution of Choice workgroup update
- b. Strategic Plan oversight workgroup update

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Proposed changes and updates to Staff Senate bylaws: biggest change is adding an additional person for each Dean's area/college; clarifications on calling special meetings; Let Parliamentarian Hader know of any changes/edits before the next meeting because we will be voting on these bylaws in February
- b. Senator Schlinder – Do we need to reallocate the contingency to pay for the rest of the food for the year? As we add senators and have more and more guests from all over campus, the budget may need to increase. Decided that Chair Bridges will present an amended budget in February to potentially reallocate from other budgetary areas. It was also requested that the menu be listed on the meeting information before the meeting more consistently.

OPEN FORUM

- a. Send Lesa Anderson ideas to update the parking web page and email her details for lot closures when you have them.
- b. Lisa McGowen brought up the milestones and awards and congratulations on how many senators received those.
- c. Next meeting in February is taste of the south with pulled pork sandwiches and “gussied up” mac and cheese

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close January meeting at 12:45pm