



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 6/4/2026

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges

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

Absences: JF1: Charles Babb, Peggy Kahre, Justin Daugherty; JF2: Brian Grindstadd, Ingrid Hintze, Kem Yost; JF3: Joseph Cillesson; JF4: Christina Bowles, Sierra Chitwood, Sharon Harter, Nicholas Horne, Donna Murphy, Sophia Raitchel, Nicole Webster; Div Reps: Stephanie Smith

Guests: Denise Lofton, Angela Goerndt, Diavion Mayhew, Serena Whorton, Chris DePriest, Ashley Rewan, Brandon Ives, Tammy Dixon (on behalf of Holly Reynolds JF4), Tracie Gieselman France, Lisa McEowen, Armani Eason, Kelsoe Young smith, Josh Chadwick

GREETINGS

GUEST SPEAKERS

I.

- a. Senator Mings: Recently conducted a spot check on other institutions – the Employee PPO Premium Spot Review (this was comparisons of the lowest PPO plan option at other universities). Our base plan for the individual is the lowest, but our family plan is a little higher than a few other institutions. Key takeaways were that Missouri State has the lowest-cost employee only contributions. Another review of our plans is the Mercer Survey, which is a nationwide survey that we participate in. This one determined that we are doing well with our Medical & dental premiums, our deductibles and out-of-pocket limits, our dental plan maximums and orthodontic coverage. Other news: HR is looking into adding another healthcare option with a health savings account in the future. Update on Point C – they are supposed to be caught up on claims now. Reach out to DeeDee about a claim that isn't dealt with or have your provider refile those.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: VP of MarCom search: 10 initial Zoom interviews, hope to bring 3-5 candidates to campus this summer. Mentioned that faculty senate and staff senate had reps in the Associate Provost for Student Success (Kelly Wood replacement) search as well. Chair Bridges will be telling President Williams that it's important that Staff Senate continues to have a voice/representation on these higher-level hires. Finishing up elections: Staff Senate Elections are complete for this cycle. All full except a few college reps and JF3. Staff Appreciation week – lots of new people plus carry-forward freeze means that this year will look different. For the Monday night event, be sure to RSVP for the Old Glass Place and remember that it's family friendly (Lot 42 will have open parking). Pineapple Whip on Wednesday in front of stadium. Staff photo will be on the football field.
- Chair Elect: Her appointee for secretary for the 2026/27 staff senate year is Angie Piercy, and her appointee for parliamentarian is Will Hader. Chair Webster is considering creating a new committee. The parliamentarian reminded senate that it can override any appointee or election with a 2/3rds vote.
- Past-Chair: Leaving exec board and senate. Brought up that the senate would like to communicate more with guests, but our email distribution list is only senators. Talked about the option of reviving the "Friends of Staff Senate" list.
- 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: did not meet
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: did not meet
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: Weight Watchers announcement just went up – starting in July for 3 months, so sign up as soon as possible. Safety came out today with the parking plan for June 11th Hot Rod event. Reminder to subscribe and resubscribe to the Blog because the system might kick you off. Debt Management event upcoming. All of the programs (yoga, tai chi, etc) will continue through summer – just register or show up at classes. Summer Movement Challenge to come later in July.
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: has not met but he is planning to push to start this process earlier in the fiscal year next year because it is a very short discussion and decision cycle.
- Faculty Senate – Senators Ball and Van Rhein: talk of ad hoc committees to look at changes in structure (department chair instead of department head and would be voted in by peers) and to change the requirements for distinguished professor; there was talk of pay and how tenure-track faculty have not received a real dollar raise in a decade; talked about the financial incentives for athletes for better grades

and they are wondering if athletes are given easier load; worried that provost is from a university without a faculty senate.

- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: nothing else to add after presentation today.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin: nothing to report
- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy: has not met
- President’s Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: has not met
- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga, Senator Jean: One new and one recurring approved. Pool is still in good shape! This is the time to donate to shared leave before the end of the fiscal year. It was noted that you can use this leave for organ donation even if you have never donated. Otherwise, you must have donated to it.
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: Past-Chair Keele will be cycling off so we need another representative. No other updates
- Student Government –Chair Bridges: no report
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: officially still a committee and they will still update the senate.
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: There was an April meeting, and they approved a measure for a single student employee for the Bear Pantry.
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: there will no longer be a 3-year permit, just an annual one. If you get a parking violation, you can now appeal via email.
- University Council – Chair Bridges: Met Tuesday 6/2 and notes were sent out to Staff Senate. June 11 Hot Rod Power Tour details were discussed. Nothing major from legislature but state funding changes could happen in the next few years.
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader : no meeting until end of summer. Parts of MarCom is moving to Carrington
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges : list was approved and announced at the May Board of Governors meeting
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: new officers were appointed - new Staff Senate President is Lauren Willis and Kileene Collins is West Plains Staff Senate Secretary.
- Williams’ Welcome – Chair Bridges – next one is in July
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy – nothing to report
- Large Events Coordination – Senator Reed- meeting monthly now; they are now adding events that are not Missouri State events but are on campus (SPS meeting, Great Southern Bank Arena events, etc). Senator Schiller suggested we should have a web accessible calendar for these big events. Senator Reed asked for input about award banquets, ceremonies and trying to consolidate those.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Public Affairs (Senator Harter): Senator Keele gave rundown of what this committee is and Chair Bridges gave an update based on notes from Senator Harter: next Hope Card session will be the week of the 4th of July, Adopt a Street is planned for June 12th at 3:30pm, discussing book discussion oriented around the Public Affairs Conference keynote speaker.
- b) Staff Activities (Senators Malonee and Babb): Sign-up is open for the free movie on June 13th, staff t-shirts are in and can be picked up today (plus there are extra available \$20), Springfield Cardinals game is Fri Aug 28th – watch for more details. Next meeting is June 17 at 1:30 in Meyer Library 303.
- c) Staff Development (Senators Helton, Phillips): Working on a book swap for staff during staff appreciation week – details to come. Scheduled to meet next Monday.
- d) Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean) - meeting briefly after this meeting about working with West Plains.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Elections – Blanca Mallonee (Student Success) and Serena Whorton (FCTL) are the newly elected JF1 senators. We need one more JF3 member. We have 3 college reps that still need to be appointed (CoB, CoE, and Grad College).

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Budget – Chair-elect Webster asked for input on budget proposal for next fiscal year. Move to ratify the budget made by Senator Hader. Adopted by unanimous consent.
- b. Gift plaque for Chair Bridges presented by Chair-elect Webster and she thanked all senators, but in particular she acknowledged those who are not returning with appreciation for their service. Chair Bridges also thanked all senators for serving this year.

OPEN FORUM

- a. The Veterans Office is hosting an event today in Library at 1:00pm and they need attendees.
- b. Past Chair Keele everyone again and reminded us that President Williams says our senate is the most active of any university that he has been involved in.
- c. Letterman updated us that the Hot Rod parking details will be in the Words of Williams next week

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close June meeting at 12:32 and close the 2025/2026 Senate session.