



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 3/5/2025

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges

The Staff Senate held the March Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Bridges called the session to order at 11:04am

Absences: JF1: Lesa Andersen, Austin Ball; JF2: Justin Daugherty, Ingrid Hintze; JF3: Joseph Cillessen, Stacey Stopczynski; JF4: Nicholas Horne, Adam Niesen, April Phillips, Nicole Webster; Divisional Reps: Rachel Rigby, DeeDee Mings, Kevin Piercy

Guests: Tashiana Conklin, Laura Anderson, Joshua Thomas, Breno Viani, Wendy Ferguson, Jacqui Coones, Ginger L. Stringer, Alison K. Harper, Nova Ewers, Mark Woolsey, Emma Watkins

GREETINGS

GUEST SPEAKERS

I.

- a. Magers and Wellness updates and questions: Sara Nimmo, Director Magers Health and Wellness, and Senator Galen Martin: Discussed the value of employee wellness and what we offer here. In FY25 11,000 unique visits from employees and their families. They are accredited, which not all college health systems are and have been for 30 years. They plan to continue to have great providers, just hired a new medical coordinator and a new DO. They want to expand technology; newest is self-check-in. Want to expand mental health services; there are 2 counselors as well as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. Would like to expand insurance coverage for part-timers and students. Pharmacy already bills most insurances, and they are hoping to add Medicaid. Galen reminds us to subscribe to the Employee Wellness newsletter and Wellness Works Blog. Walking Challenge starts the Tuesday after Spring Break. There are still appointments on the Mammogram bus, Meader park is expanding pickle ball courts and there is a survey of pickle ball players right now. Wellness Collective is still our provider for yoga and other free offerings. Galen's salary and the funding for the classes comes from the insurance fund so take advantage of these classes! Don't forget the health portal – you can refill prescriptions, get messages from providers, sign up for text reminders, etc. Paying at the time of visit is an easy way to avoid having it go to your account and get mixed in with other MSU bills. If it took longer than is reasonable (4-6 weeks) to get insurance resolved, they might reverse finance charges – make a request through Magers.
- b. Giving Day: Senator Stephanie Smith, Wendy Ferguson, Jacqui Coones, Ginger L. Stringer, Alison Harper, Nova Ewers –Ferguson spoke first about Giving Day in general and asked us all to be Ambassadors. Senator Smith reminded us that Giving Day can be used to support anything that has a Foundation account. Harper & Ewers gave updates for

2026: less emails, more segmentation by looking at the individual and what they care about, when talking totals they will only look at new money only this Giving Day (no including past money in matches), 50% of gifts came from Ambassador links before. You can be a registered Ambassador or not. Ambassadors get an MSU bandana as a gift. Stringer went over the Toolkit for Ambassadors that is online, has social media tools. 2/24 is when early giving goes live. 3/24-3/25 is Giving Day.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: check deleted or junk folder for “Great Colleges” survey and submit. See emailed notes on Board of Governor’s meeting. Next Exec Board meeting is on 3/23. Strategic plan oversight meeting is 4/27. Exec Budget Committee meeting is 3/13
- Chair Elect: Positions will be open for nominations and upcoming election. Also, new committee chairs and co-chairs. Think about possible new senators.
- 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: ‘27-‘28 calendar was nearly finalized but there were issues with the number of workdays prior to winter break and length of break, Final version is now TBD. Also, there is an unwritten rule about starting back in January no later than when the state legislature does. Trying to make sure we do not lose days off.
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: has not met
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: Walking challenge has a lot of gift cards – one entry for every 100,000 steps. Free gym options in McDonald Arena 116. Rec Center is doing classes where your non-credit fee waiver pays but you do not have to be a member of Foster Recreation Center.
- Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: looking at what HR and Egon’s unit can get us about where staff has been cut in the past and workloads; advocating for at least one more staff representation on the Exec Budget committee. There is also info about the budget in the University Council notes from Chair Bridges via email.
- Faculty Senate – Senators Ball and Van Rhein – HLC was discussed, talked about General Ed requirements, went over the faculty administrators survey (which is about what faculty thinks of leadership) and they have asked the President to respond, Provost mentioned a 360-degree review of the deans and the VPs. Faculty handbook revisions were discussed. Mtn. Grove is part of the Darr college of Ag now.

- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: met last week – There is still a backlog on claims. About 400 claims disappeared but they have been identified and refiled. Part time staff can use the employee assistance program. Total compensation letters are coming. Shared leave pool is in a good spot. There is a “New Hire Virtual Benefit Fair” available for new hires.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities session on 2/5 went well and it was well attended.
- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy: moved to today so nothing to report (Presidents Council, etc. is on Tuesday so they are trying Thursdays for IT council).
- President’s Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: nothing to report
- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga, Senator Jean: Approvals on one recurring and 3 new cases.
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: no report but be thinking about who you want to nominate and send in detailed nominations
- Student Government – Senator Bowles: SGA reps Mia Ray and Addie Kimmerle said that they have started a reimbursement program for students. Working with local pet adoption agencies. Elections for SGA leadership and Wyrick voting is coming up. Health and Wellness committee encouraging students to use resources. “Rent a Gown” program is starting this semester. Passed funding for 2 student orgs that had lost funding because of DEI cuts.
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: discussed the future of the committee, meetings are getting fewer each year and so they are trying to decide if it is still a useful committee. Discussed changing the format of the meeting and Matt Morris and Dean Jahnke are looking at the data and how to re-work the committee.
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: nothing to report
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: nothing to report
- University Council – Chair Bridges: Notes were in email this week; had details about budget information, HLC site visit, West Plains news, Ombuds getting traction and updates on Strategic plan benchmarks and peer groups.
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader: meeting next month, shuffling to be announced
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges: currently working on selecting people
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: no update
- Williams’ Welcome – Chair Bridges: will meet again in about a month
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy: proposal will be voted on by students March 23rd-27th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Adopt a Street on March 27th, next meeting is March 12 at 2pm on zoom. Book discMSU Cares donations from March 9-April 10
- Staff Activities (Mallonee): Basketball tickets for tonight – had 39 people sign up (men’s); 30 people or so at the last game (women’s). Mizzou baseball game is coming up on April 15th. August 28th there will be a Springfield Cardinals game with picnic.
- Staff Development (Helton, Phillips): no report

- Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean) – 2nd and 3rd shift survey still in process, will meet after Staff Senate meeting

OLD BUSINESS

a. Food-related financial proposal: general budget has only had about 17% spent, so there is money to spend. Proposal by Senator Webster (and seconded) of \$250 extra and then that proposal was “friendly amended” by Senator Hader to increase the budget line for food by 20% - this was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Elections – call for nominations and recruitment. Should have already been contacted about your seat being up for election and if you want to re-run (contact Senator Piercy). Nominations are officially open right now – email staffsenate@missouristate.edu to nominate. June elections: we have 2 seats in JF1, 4 seats in JF2, 1 seat in JF3 and 9 seats in JF4. The Chair -Elect, Coordinator of Committees and Coordinator of Communications are also up for elections in May.
- b. HLC review update and practice forum – Senator Bohlen and Mark Woolsey conducted a practice session with practice questions. Packets were handed out with 5 copies of the HLC Executive Summary so that you can share with others (they want to get these out to as many people as possible). The Executive Summary goes over the criterion for the HLC review. Please mark off March 30th and 31st the dates on your calendar. The open forums are NOT just for leadership and leadership will not be allowed to attend some of them. This is your chance to tell your story.
- c. Chair Bridges brought up Goal 3: Achieve Meaningful Gains in Student and Employee Satisfaction. He would like a parallel report from Staff Senate to present to the President. Be thinking about concerns and recommendations and send to Chair Bridges. Also, please do watch for the Great Colleges to Work For email and survey.

OPEN FORUM

- a. Good news: personal updates were shared.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close March meeting at 1:03pm