

**STAFF
SENATE GENERAL
SESSION**

**May 7, 2026
11:00PM-1:00PM
GLASS HALL 486**



AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Review of Minutes**
- III. Executive Board Reports**
- IV. External Representation Reports & Assignments**
- V. Committee Reports**
- VI. Old Business**
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Open Forum**
- IX. Adjournment**

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Chair's Report

- Strategic Plan year 1 breakdown on April 22 – reports, networking, pomp, and an... interesting... podcast
- Board of Governors meeting upcoming
- Exec Board meeting on 4/16 –
 - Good discussion about morale
 - Updates on what we're doing
 - 360-feedback had good turnout, separated feedback into different constituencies, initial review by Pres. Williams and HR, then feedback to cabinet
- Will serve on VP of MarCom search

Executive
Board
Reports

Chair-elect

Budget: Staff
Senate Budget
FY26-27.xlsx

Executive
Board
Reports

Past Chair

Coordinator of Committees

Coordinator of Communication

Secretary

Parliamentarian

Historian

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Academic Calendar Committee

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: To coordinate preparation of the University's academic calendar and then to present the calendar to the Board of Governors for approval.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates: None

Administrative Budget Committee

Representative: Chair-Elect Webster

Purpose: To review and recommend appropriate budget actions for campus administrative areas.

Commitment: Length of term

Updates: Currently not meeting.

Employee Wellness Committee

Representative: Senator Martin

Purpose: To create a campus climate that embraces a Wellness philosophy as an integral part of the Missouri State University health care and public affairs missions.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates from Senator Martin

Executive Budget Committee

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: To receive input from the academic and administrative budget committees and the West Plains campus, as well as intercollegiate athletics, and those vice presidents with auxiliary and/or designated accounts.

To determine the budget level assigned to the various colleges and administrative units, including intercollegiate athletics and auxiliary units.

Commitment: Length of Term

Update: Notes were sent out w/ minutes last month and will be finalized after Board of Governors' approval

Faculty Senate

Representative: Senators Ball and Van Rhein

Purpose: Attend meetings as liaison with Faculty Senate and report back each month. These are generally held on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons.

Next meeting is 5/7 at 3:30pm in PSU Ballroom West (then off until Aug.).

Update: Sen. Ball and Sen. Van Rhein

Health Care & Benefits Committee

Representative: Chair Bridges

- **Updates:**
- Point C backlog is mostly clear. If something hasn't been processed, reach out to provider and ask them to resubmit it to Point C. If there are issues, reach out
- Shared Leave Pool balance is around \$168k, 12 parental leaves processed, 6 in queue – good levels. Remember to donate if you haven't, but no extra donations this year.

Inclusion Awareness Team

Representative: Senator Catlin

Purpose: The Student Affairs Inclusion Awareness Team works collaboratively to promote and elevate MSU diversity efforts.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

IT Council

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: The Missouri State Information Technology Council (IT Council) was created by the university's president to be responsible for planning, coordinating, and reviewing major strategic information technology initiatives for the Missouri State System.

Commitment: Two Year Appointment

Update: Toured RCASH IT facilities + presentation. Discussing how to evaluate proposals for innovation funds. Next meeting on 6/15

President's Council on Accessibility

Representative: Senator Derrick

Purpose: Enhance the full participation of individuals with disabilities in the campus community by serving as an advisory and oversight committee regarding accessibility issues.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates:

- Significant increase in StreamlinED. Students saved \$624,000 SP26. Faculty adoption could be better
- Grand Avenue at Craig Hall altered due to construction. Underpass will be affected. Look for updates from Administrative Services Blog.
- Julie Holmes is retiring. Position has been posted by HR.

Shared Leave Committee

Representatives: Senator Mallonee, Senator Muñoz Aliaga, Senator Jean

Purpose: The committee will review all applications for the Shared Leave Pool (SLP) and shall follow the criteria set out in this policy to approve or disapprove the request for SLP benefits. The committee's decision is final.

Commitment: Varies

Updates?

Staff Excellence in University Service Awards Committee

Representative: Senator Niesen + Past Chair Keele

Purpose: To select from nominated staff recipients of the Staff Senate Excellence in Service to the University award.

Commitment: Two Year Appointment

Updates: Next year's nominations will open later this month. One spot will be open for next year (Campbell's). Talk to Misty if interested!

Student Government Association

- **Representative:** Many hands make light work! Next year, volunteer to attend a meeting (Tuesdays at 5:30 in the PSU)
- **Purpose:** Attend SGA meetings as liaison. Report back to Staff Senate.
- **Commitment:** Sign up to make sure most or all meetings are covered.
- **Updates:**
 - End-of-semester banquet was nice.
 - Congratulations to Walter Reyes and Jada Smith (elections)

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Representative: Senator Emily Letterman

Purpose: 1) Monitor and report out on sustainability initiatives completed by MSU Faculty, Staff, and Students; 2) Monitor committee-developed realistic strategies to earn high ratings from AASHE, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; 3) Be a leader in sustainability initiatives across our state and region; 4) Monitor and benchmark our work related to sustainability initiatives.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Sustainability Commission

Representative: Benjamin Wilkins

Purpose: The Sustainability Commission administers the Sustainability Fund. The purpose of the Sustainability Fund is to provide the means to implement student-initiated projects on the Missouri State University-Springfield campus that focus on sustainability initiatives that lessen the negative environmental impact of the University.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates: ?

Transportation Advisory Committee

Representative: Senator Bogue

Purpose: To review the University transportation policies, regulations, and the fee schedule and make recommendations to the VP for Administration and Finance.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

University Council

Representative: Chair Bridges, Past Chair Keele

Commitment: Length of term

Updates: Met Tuesday, 5/5 (notes sent out)

Highlights: HLC results, City Utilities and other construction on campus, spring commencement, West Plains updates, more budget, Student Retention Team presentation, policy roundup

University Space Allocation Advisory Committee

Representative: Parliamentarian Hader

Purpose: The Committee is to meet at the call of the chair, typically monthly, to review the status of current space allocations, recommend actions regarding requests for new or additional space, and consider requests for modifications of existing space.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Wall of Fame

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: The Wall of Fame is a designated location for the University to recognize and honor employees that have excelled at Missouri State University and significantly contributed to the success and positive collegiate experience of students.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates: Met ... no spoilers!

West Plains Staff Senate

Representative: West Plains Chair Trevor Cressman

Purpose: Liaison from the West Plains Campus

Commitment: Length of term

Updates:

<https://blogs.wp.missouristate.edu/staffsenate/2026/04/09/staff-senate-meeting-minutes-4-9-26/>

“Williams’ Welcome”

Representative: Chair Bridges

Purpose: Bear Connection's mission is to integrate new Staff to the culture of Missouri State University and connect them to the university's mission and values through networking and events.

Commitment: Length of term

Update: Met on April 17. Lots of Bear Connections Ambassadors, new CFO and one or two new staff. Next is in late July.

Wyrick Commission

Representative: Secretary Piercy

Purpose: The Wyrick Student Project Fund Commission shall be established as an executive commission of the Student Government Association. This commission shall administer the Wyrick Fund program.

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

Large Events Coordination Committee

Representative: Historian Reed

Purpose: This committee recently formed to communicate and coordinate regarding large events (200+ people and/or events that require involvement from President's Cabinet).

Commitment: One Year Appointment

Updates?

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Public Affairs Committee

Purpose: The Public Affairs Committee is charged with coordinating activities and developing proposals to produce citizens of enhanced character that contribute to the University community and society, and demonstrate civility in thought, speech and action.

The Public Affairs Committee is responsible for

- Promoting the public affairs mission and events/activities that support it
- Facilitating Cherry Street Adopt a Street
- Coordinating a leadership book series at least once a semester
- Coordinating donation drives as opportunity arises
- Reporting updates to the Coordinator of Staff Senate Committees.

Next meeting:

Staff Activities Committee

Purpose: The Staff Activities Committee is charged with facilitating, planning and coordinating Staff Senate organized events, fundraising for Staff Senate Scholarship funds, and coordinating with University partners in the hosting of Staff Appreciation Week (in June).

The Staff Activities Committee is responsible for:

- Planning staff events through the year
- Creating new fundraising opportunities for the Staff Senate Scholarship
- Coordinating participation for staff at MSU events, including athletics
- Reporting updates to the Coordinator of Staff Senate Committees.

Next meeting: May 20, 1:30 in Library 303

Staff Development Committee

Purpose: The Staff Development Committee is charged with coordinating and raising awareness of opportunities for Staff to grow professionally, as well as pursuing opportunities to improve recruitment and retention of staff and participating in the Strategic Plan implementation to improve the university's standing as an employer of choice.

The Staff Development Committee is responsible for

- Partnering with other MSU entities to present a professional development opportunity at least once a semester
- Leading research into Senate initiatives to improve conditions for Staff
- Working with the Chair and Chair-Elect to deploy, promote, and interpret the biannual Staff Satisfaction Survey
- Working with any ad-hoc committees charged with addressing staff satisfaction

Next meeting: Monday, 5/11 at 2:00pm

Staff Outreach Committee

Purpose: The Staff Outreach Committee is charged with connecting with, hearing from, and serving groups that Senate has typically had trouble reaching. These include, but are not limited to, part-time staff, 2nd and 3rd shift staff, West Plains Staff Senate, SGA and faculty.

The Staff Outreach Committee is responsible for:

- Identifying barriers to participation in campus activities for 2nd and 3rd shift staff.
- Creating and promoting accessible avenues for engagement tailored to varying shift schedules.
- Collaborating with other committees to ensure shift-inclusive communications and event planning.
- Reporting updates to the Coordinator of Staff Senate Committees

Next meeting: Today, after Senate

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Old business

-
- Insert something clever here...



Elections for Senate Seats

- Job Family 1 will have an election that will go out by targeted email this week
 - 2 available seats
 - 3 running
 - Blanca Mallonee (Student Success)
 - Kristy Larangeira (Music)
 - Serena Whorton (FCTL)

Elections for Senate Seats

- Job Family 2 will NOT have an election
 - 4 available seats
 - 4 accepted nominations to be seated
 - Josh Chadwick
 - John Elkins
 - Brian Grindstaff
 - Carisma Wantland

Elections for Senate Seats

- Job Family 3 will NOT have an election
 - 2 available seats
 - 1 accepted nomination to be seated (so far)
 - Breno Viani
 - One open seat remains

Elections for Senate Seats

- Job Family 4 will NOT have an election
 - 10 available seats
 - 10 accepted nominations to be seated
- Laura Anderson
- Alicia Baum
- Christina Bowles
- Shelly Deckard
- Tracie Gieselman
France
- Brandon Ives
- Galen Martin
- April Phillips
- Morgan Townsend
- Emma Watkins

Appointed Senate Seats

Divisional Seats

- Jim Welch – Enrollment Management

College Seats

- Garrett Kirk (Darr)
- Chris DePriest (RCASH)
- Eric Shively (MCHHS)
- Holly Keehner (CNAS)
- Lisa McEowen (Library)

Still waiting on nominations from CoB,
CoE, and Grad College

What
happens
now



Senate Exec Board has voted to approve these uncontested nominations and appointments



If Senate is opposed, bylaws state a 2/3 majority can repeal Exec Board action.

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Elections for Senate Executive positions

- Chair-elect
 - Mary Bohlen has accepted a nomination
 - Any other nominations?
- Coordinator of Committees
 - Rachel Rigby has accepted a nomination
 - Any other nominations?
- Coordinator of Communications
 - Emily Letterman has accepted a nomination
 - Any other nominations?

Anything else?

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Good Things

Promotions,
Achievements, Awards,
Accolades?

An interlude



Mandatory
Socialization!
Move near
new people
and discuss at
your table



What is a positive about your
job or area?



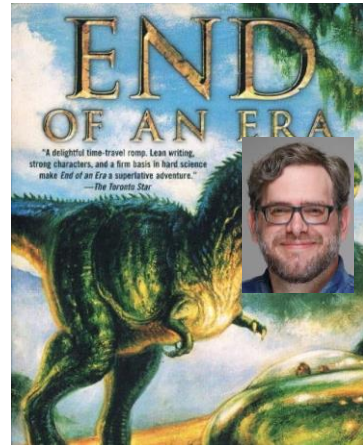
What is a question you have
for administration that you feel
isn't being asked?



Rumors or worries in your
area?

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Next Staff Senate Meeting

- June 4, 2026
- 11:00pm-1:00pm
- Glass Hall 486
- The end of an era!