



## STAFF SENATE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE: 5/7/2026**

**PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Phil Bridges**

The Staff Senate held the May Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Bridges called the session to order at 11:07am

Absences: JF2: Ingrid Hintze, Benjamin Wilkins; JF3: Joseph Cillessen; JF4: John Bogue, Laura Derrick, Nicholas Horn, April Phillips, Holly Reynolds, Nicole Webster; Divisional Reps: Kelly Evans

Guests: Emma Watkins, Laura Anderson, Tashiana Conklin, Ashley Pearce, Breno Viani, Lisa McEowen, Angela Goerndt

### GREETINGS

### GUEST SPEAKERS

I.

a. none

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

- Chair report: attended Strategic Plan Year on Breakdown on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Will be attending Board of Governor's May meeting. Exec board meeting on 4/16 had a good discussion about morale with President Williams: mentioned the current feeling of uncertainty, communication, workload distribution, and the timing of feedback from staff. President Williams stated that the 360-feedback had good turnout that was reviewed by himself and HR and then will be sent to cabinet. Chair Bridges also reported that he will eve on the VP of MarCom search.
- Chair Elect: Budget update for 26-27; increased the lunch budget for larger senate body, more guests and food costs. Reserve amount is the same as last year; \$5000 for staff activities and other committees get \$1000. Discretionary Senate Funds that can be used for anything that the Senate approves will be set at \$8,000. Reserve funds are in case something comes in over-budget. Chair-Elect Webster asked for feedback from the senate. Approval to come later.
- 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: sent out update prior to last meeting and there are no further updates
- Administrative Budget Committee – Chair-Elect Webster: has not met
- Employee Wellness – Senator Martin: fall and spring programs run all summer long, can join now. There will be new programming starting July 1. Walking Challenge is completed now. Gave 119 massages on Study Day last Friday: 45% to students and 55% to employees.
  - Executive Budget – Chair Bridges: notes were sent out with minutes last month and will be finalized after BOG meets today. State funding was flat and there is still a conversation about changing how funding is figured that might benefit MSU. Still, no plans for compensation increase. Some MSU frozen positions were cut, and West Plains had layoffs.
- Faculty Senate – Senators Ball and Van Rhein – Meets this afternoon. Last time there were 3 curricular proposals accepted and Chair Foster talked about how the primary job of faculty senate is curriculum control and that's what the focus should be.
- Health Care & Benefits – Chair Bridges, Senator Mings: Point C backlog is mostly clear. If something hasn't been processed have your provider resubmit to Point C. Question from Senator Bowles about personal days – system limitation to keeping track of those but HR can pull that for you if you need to know. Noted that at retirement your unused sick leave balance applies to time worked and they pay it out at retirement as well. If you have donated to Shared Leave Pool EVER then you are eligible to use it forever. Shared Leave Pool balance is currently about \$168K so no extra donations being allowed this year.
- Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Catlin: no update
- IT Council – Chair Bridges, Senator K. Piercy: toured RCASH facilities and talked about the student innovation fund money and projects. SCUFF innovation fund criteria being laid out to determine a fair way to distribute the money (this is one-time money to pilot something new or bring new innovations to campus).
- President's Council on Accessibility – Senator Derrick: Significant increase in streamlined ED (online textbooks) and students saved \$624,000 in SP26 but faculty adoption could be better. Grand Avenue at Craig Hall altered due to construction, underpass will be affected, construction issues laid out more closely in slide from University Council (Phil will send later). Julie Holmes (Deputy Compliance Officer) is retiring, and position has been posted by HR.
- Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Munoz Aliaga, Senator Jean: 2 parental leave requests, one new case approved, one new case approved with reduced hours to obtain more documentation next month, \$168,140.48 as of February. Currently in the good spot, which is between \$75,000 and \$200,000.
- Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Past-Chair Keele & Senator Niesen: no report

- Student Government – Chair Bridges: SGA end-of-semester banquet was nice, congratulations to Walter Reyes and Jada Smith for their elections to Student Body President and Vice President.
- Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: last week meeting the committee decided to disband but the subgroups/workgroups who do all of the work will remain and they will report to their VP and roll the work they are doing into the strategic plan.
- Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: nothing to report
- Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: nothing to report; but Lesa Anderson spoke up about a virtual trial for the summer on the new virtual system (won't work on service vehicles). Can sign up to participate or email [parking@missouristate.edu](mailto:parking@missouristate.edu) Also, can now update your vehicle information on the webpage. Also noted that if two vehicles that are under your one permit are on campus at the same time, that will be a violation so you would need to tell parking if the spouse is visiting. August 1<sup>st</sup> is when everything goes virtual.
- University Council – Chair Bridges: notes went out earlier today with agenda. HLC went really well. City Utilities and other construction on campus was discussed. For the West Plains updates, Zora Mulligan said that May 1<sup>st</sup> there were layoffs in WP because of their own budget and student numbers.
- University Space Allocation – Senator Hader: nothing to report
- Wall of Fame – Chair Bridges: will be announced later.
- West Plains Staff Senate – WP Chair Trevor Cressman: check blog at <https://blogs.wp.missouristate.edu/staffsenate/2026/04/09/staff-senate-meeting-minutes-4-9-26/>
- Williams' Welcome – Chair Bridges: Next one is in July
- Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy: no update.
- Large Event Committee – Senator Reed: once a month meeting to discuss events on campus; either large events that would impact campus as a whole or events that include President or Provost or Board of Governors. June 11<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a hot rod event with 5000+ hot rods on campus so parking will be extremely limited (there is also SOAR this day). Parking garages (only lots open that day) and downtown will not be impacted. Lots will be closed the night before. Let Senator Reed know about large events so he can add it to the spreadsheet.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Public Affairs (Harter): Hope Cards 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 June 12<sup>th</sup> Adopt a Street was canceled in April and will be June 12<sup>th</sup> now. Next meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup> on Zoom at 2pm.
- Staff Activities (Babbs/Mallonee): College station movie in June Goonies. Check your email for the QR code/link for Staff Appreciation t-shirt. Had to cancel Mizzou game – you can still use your tickets if you have one and there are some more tickets that they can give out.
- Staff Development (Helton, Phillips): next meeting is on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Organizing a book exchange event possibly in library on June 12<sup>th</sup>. May use committee funds for food or something during this event.
- Staff Outreach: (Senator Paula Jean) – no report

## OLD BUSINESS

- I. Elections – Job Family 1 election is the only one happening with 3 candidates running. JF 2, 3, and 4 had the same or less than the number of open seats so they are approved by exec board – no one made a motion to overrule. Should have 67-68 seats in staff senate for next fiscal year.
  - a) JF2 has four accepted nominations to be seated: Josh Chadwick, John Elkins, Brian Grindstaff, Carisma Wantland.
  - b) JF3 has one accepted nomination to be seated and one open seat: Breno Viani.
  - c) JF4 has ten accepted nominations to be seated: Laura Anderson, Allicia Baum, Christina Bowles, Shelly Deckard, Tracie Gieselmann France, Brandon Ives, Galen Martin, April Phillips, Morgan Townsend, Emma Watkins
  - d) Added one Divisional Seat (Jim Welch of Enrollment Management), Added College seats (Garrett Kirk-DARR, Chris DePriest-RCASH, Eric Shively-MCHHS, Holly Keehner-CNAS, Lisa McEowen-Library) and we are still waiting for CoB, CoE, and Grad College to nominate.

## NEW BUSINESS

- I. Senate Executive position elections
  - a) One nomination already accepted for Chair-Elect; no other nominations declared. Senator Mary Bohlen spoke on her behalf and then won a successful election to Chair-Elect by unanimous consent.
  - b) One nomination already accepted for Coordinator of Committees; no other nominations declared. Senator Rachel Rigby spoke on her behalf and then won a successful election to Coordinator of Committees by unanimous consent.
  - c) One nomination already accepted for Coordinator of Communications; no other nominations declared. Senator Emily Letterman spoke on her behalf and then won a successful election by unanimous consent.
- II. Senator Hader made a procedural motion to remove the spending cap for exec board spending threshold; removing this means the Exec board will only bring it to the senate after the action is over. This was seconded by Senator Bowles. Adopted by unanimous consent. It is likely to be used to give extra funds to Staff Appreciation week.

## OPEN FORUM

- a. Good Things: Global Advising week – thanks from Campbell Keele.
- b. Phil is getting a commendation from Board of Governors this afternoon.
- c. Three staff members are being recognized today for Excellence in Public Affairs: Suzanne Mwengi, Darren Wienberg, and Nina Barudzic.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close May meeting at 12:38pm