Staff Senate General Session Minutes

November 5, 2026

11:00am-1:00pm

Glass Hall 486

Absences: JF1: Lesa Anderson, Serena Whorton, Rob Ybanez; JF2: Kirk Robinson, Kem Yost; JF3: Breno Viani; JF4: Laura Anderson, John Bogue, Gretchen Gawron, Galen Martin, Donna Murphy, Adam Niesen; Divisional Representatives: Katy Hensley; College Representatives: Holly Keehner, Garrett Kirk

Guests: Ashley Pearce (Computer Services), Tashiana Conklin (School of Anesthesia), Heidi Backes (Faculty Senate Chair/Representative), Campbell Keele (Acad Advising & Transfer Ctr), Caleb Whitlow (Computer Services)

Presiding Officer: Chair Webster

1. Welcome and Call to Order – 11:10 AM

2. Guest Speakers

a. Stephanie Smith- University Advancement Center

- Bear Nation Celebration on Nov.13 (Friday night) at 6pm. FREE Event. Lots of food and swag. One-of-a-kind Build a Bear and shirts that you can purchase. Streets around the building except National will be closed, marching band will perform in street and there will be a pyro drone show.
- Ribbon cutting Wednesday the 11th at 2pm. Will have pineapple whip and Andy's for free.
- One Big Tent for all colleges at Homecoming tailgate Glass Hall/Strong
- Veteran's Day Breakfast and Taps on Veteran's Day next week.

b. Jeremy Dickerson and Chelsey Giles- Staff Recruitment Playbook

- Strategic Plan goal of increasing student enrollment – 7,800 dual credit this semester, 16,700 degree-seeking this semester (undergrad and Grad). The goal of 30,000 by 2030 is system wide (includes West Plains).
- 50,000 students have expressed interest in coming here in fall of 2027
- They are open to feedback on this playbook; share with your department

c. Dee Dee Mings- Benefits Enrollment

- Wellness Course was assigned but is not required. It is one of 3 options to lower your rate.
- MSU is adding a Whole Life insurance option, replacing Universal Life (no new enrollments but people are allowed to keep it). Better long-term care rider. You are considered paid up by age 95. Rate locked for the age that you sign up for it. Can carry both Whole and Universal (if you already have it). University provides Term life insurance and that term is your employment.
- No plan changes, just a rate change on medical.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

4. Executive Board Reports

a. Chair Webster –

- We still need to fill 1-JF2, 1-JF3, 1-JF4 in senate.

b. Chair Elect: nothing to report

c. Past-Chair: nothing to report

d. Coordinator of Committees: nothing to report

e. Coordinator of Communications:

f. Secretary: nothing to report

g. Parliamentarian: nothing to report

5. External Committee Reports

A. Academic Calendar- Chair Webster

- Met on Monday November 4th to review the 2028/29 calendar.

B. Administrative Budget- Chair Elect Bohlen

- Not met

C. Employee Wellness- Senator Martin

- Remember flu shot, biometrics, and wellness classes

D. Executive Budget- Chair Webster

- Not met

E. Faculty Senate Liaisons- Senator Van Rhein, Senator Ball, Sub-Senator Whorton, Senator Shively

- Meets next week. Thursday at 4:30pm. Will be discussing a proposal for a 90-hour degree.

F. Health Care and Benefits- Chair Webster, Senator Mings

- Covered by DeeDee's presentations

G. Inclusion Awareness Team- Senator Harter

- Not met

H. IT Council- Chair Elect Bohlen, Senator K. Piercy, Parliamentarian Hader

- Meets today

I. Large Events Coordination- Senator Reed

- Last meeting was canceled.

J. President's Council on Accessibility- Senator DePriest, Sub- Senator Anderson

- Met for the first time on 10/22 and President Williams was there to say that it was an important topic. Talking about improvements to the website, looking at ways to help with course materials accessibility, accessible entrances for each building are on the campus map but they are hard to find so they are wanting to add it to the app.

K. Shared Leave Committee- Senator Mallonee, Senator Jean

- Not met

L. Staff Excellence in Service Awards (SEUSA)- Senator Niesen, Senator Bowles

- Meeting in December to start looking at nominations. Still need part-time staff nominations.

M. Student Government Liaisons- Senator Culbertson, Senator Elkins,

Senator Townsend, Senator Watkins, Senator Brewer

- Last week's meeting – Talked about Tour of the Globe downtown on Friday, open to the public (had over 600 attendees last year). Read off the homecoming candidates and it was stated that they won't meet during homecoming week.
- Meeting before that – discussion of increased costs for student organizations and the new Missouri State Branding (trademarks) when they get t-shirts, etc. printed now.

N. Sustainability Advisory Committee- Senator Letterman

- Nothing to report

O. Sustainability Commission- Senator Wilkins

- Nothing to report

P. Transportation Advisory Council- Senator Bogue

- Senator Anderson is filling in for Senator Bogue. No report.

Q. University Council- Chair Webster

- Past-Chair updated us - Rachel Dockery talked about Paul Essell (similar to what she said in the town hall).
- College of Ed dean search is starting; Associate Provost for Faculty success search will be early next year.
- Microsoft authenticator is no longer doing voice or text starting in February.
- Key control is overhauling policies about master, grand-master, or great-grand-master keys; trying to cut down on those.
- A new AI guidance statement was shared in more detail than what we heard at the town hall.
- Presentation on Title IX in response to the Cornell University issues.
- Ombuds update presented.

R. University Space Allocation- Parliamentarian Hader

- Not met – meeting moved to December

S. Wall of Fame- Chair Webster

- Not met.

T. West Plains Staff Senate- Senator Mings

- Last thing was planning the benefits fair

U. Williams' Welcome-Chair Webster, Chair Elect Bohlen

- Chair Webster presented about Staff Senate to the new staff at the last one.

V. Wyrick Commission- Secretary Piercy, Sub-Senator Osler

- Nothing to report

7. Internal Committee Reports

A. Public Affairs Committee- Senator Harter and Senator Watkins

- Adopt a Street happened on October 22nd and there will be another one in December.
- Bear Cave drive October 26-November 13, shoes professional wear, hygiene products, winter coats, jackets. Bins in KMPT 102, LIB 116, Blunt Hall 110.
- Volunteering with Bear Pantry at on 11/16 at 5pm and on 11/20 at 3pm. Please join!
- Next meeting November 17th 3:30pm on Zoom.

B. Staff Activities Committee- Senator Mallonee and Senator Babb

- Next event - November 14th tailgate from 11 AM-2 PM. Will have Harbell's wings and hot cocoa. Feel free to bring a side or desert to share.
- Tuesday Nov 10th 5-8pm - hosting a FREE board game night at Village Meeple (local small business). Open to all.
- QR code on tables is to vote for the Staff Movie night (12/5) - Home Alone, Die Hard, Elf, How the Grinch Stole Christmas: Staff movie night 12/5 – Fill out form.
- Next meeting is 11/18 1:30-2:30 PM LIBR 303.

C. Staff Development Committee- Senator Van Rhein and Senator Anderson

- Trying to come up with a proposal for a web site to list all of the development and training opportunities available on campus in one place.
- Working on an internal staff share point for senate, committees, etc.

D. Staff Outreach Committee- Senator Martin

- No report.
- Meeting will follow the next Staff Senate meeting in December.

E. Goal Three Committee- Past Chair Bridges and Senator Reed

- Working on transparency and CUPA data with HR. Gathering a lot of info on where different job families are from the mid-point on CUPA.
- Breaking it down by job families would help administration see how far some employees are below the mid-point.
- When you look at pay grade ranges, a lot of people are in the bottom quartile.
- There is no policy guidance for keeping employees close to CUPA or guidelines about equity in pay at the university.

8. Old Business

- None

9. New Business

- Senator McEowen stated that she has been approached with the idea of giving Fall Break to Staff, especially because of the lack of compensation (these would be given days when the university was closed) and a discussion was had on cost neutral and budget friendly options for benefits that could improve staff morale, but no actions or motions were taken.

10. Open Forum

- Campbell Keele talked about the “getting ready to retire” webinar and how much she learned.
- Senator Letterman said that there are only 28 working days left this year

- Senator Shively reminded us of the multifactor change and not waiting until Feb 1st. And Will said that the battery is dying on the old multifactor tokens so make sure yours are all still working. A communication plan is underway to let the students know. Caleb Whitlow mentioned setting up tables to help with the passkeys.
- Reminder that FAFSA deadline is December 1st
- Announcement that Tues Dec 8 at 7:30 is a holiday Community Choir performance
- Parliamentarian Hader reminded us of Global Ed and Engagement Tour of the Globe this week and Senator Bowles added that there is a National First-Generation Celebration Week going on now and they are hosting the USA room at the Tour of the Globe

11. Adjournment

- Motion to close November meeting at 12:38 PM

Next Meeting: December 3, at 11:00am Glass Hall 486