STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 9/3/2026

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIR Misty Webster

The Staff Senate held the September Session in Glass Hall, room 486. Chair Webster called the session to order at 11:09

Absences: JF2: Paula Jean, Charisma Wantland, Kem Yost; JF3: Breno Viani; JF4: Allicia Baum, Morgan Townsend, Nicole Webster; Div Reps: Stephanie Smith; College Reps: Garrett Kirk, Lisa McEowen

Guests: Angela Goerndt, Diavion Mayhew, Campbell Keele, Phillip Bowles, Melissa Warren, Tracy Carroll, Ira Assmann, Colby Sanders

GREETINGS

GUEST SPEAKERS

I.

a. Christina Bowles, Student Success Coaches Coordinator: Success Coaching is a service that any student can utilize, even Grad students and non-traditional students. Not just for students who are struggling. Help with identifying strengths and opportunities, time management, goal setting, organization and can help connect them to other campus resources. Student feedback about this service is very positive. Refer students when they need help meeting deadlines, improving time management, and lots of other reasons. There is a dynamic form at https://www.missouristate.edu/AcademicSuccess/student-academic-assistance.htm and the success coaches are located in Meyer 116. Also, Senator Bowles is the sponsor for "MSU: I'm First" for first generation students.

Swearing-in Officer:

Swearing in of new officer Kelly Schlinder for Coordinator of Committees. She spoke about the duties of the position and tracking the Senators participating in committees.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Executive Board Reports

- Chair report: Staff Senate has 2 open seats in JF2 and one open seat in JF3 and needs a few more College and Divisional Reps. Refresh the Brand Workgroup is starting test groups to give feedback to Strategic Plan Goal 5 group and Staff Senate has been granted 7 spots with 2 to go to exec board - if you are interested, email the Staff Senate mailbox. At the Strategic Initiative forum, Goal 3 group talked about moving from data collection to action, promoting the LEAD series to supervisors, assessing the Modern Think survey results, finding ways to recognize PT employees, as well as options for pay equity, compression and shift differentials, career ladder-type advancement plans. They are also considering bi-weekly pay schedules and looking at changing parking pass rates to be based on income.
- Chair Elect: nothing to report
- Past-Chair: nothing to report
- Coordinator of Committees: nothing to report
- Coordinator of Communications:
- Secretary: nothing to report
- Parliamentarian: 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: Meet the Providers at Magers event on September 17th from 4:30-6:30pm, Active Shooter training on September 16th, blood drive with free tickets to the zoo September 8-10th.

• Executive Budget – Chair Webster: not meet

• Faculty Senate – Van Rein and Ball – has not met (will meet on September 10th)

• Health Care & Benefits – Senator Mings: working on rates and wellness discount for next year – the incentives will be the same as it has been the last few years. Blog with this info will be coming soon. Flu vaccines will be coming but are not in yet. Please note that rates are all going up except VSP (vision).

• Inclusion Awareness Team – Senator Harter: has not met

• IT Council – Chair-elect Bohlen, Senator K. Piercy: meets today. At the August 13th meeting, innovation funding requests were discussed. Project proposal presentations are coming on those. Classroom technology information was also covered.

• Large Events Coordination – Senator Reed- discussed the Ozarko band competition because it has moved to the weekend of Halloween when we are in session instead of Fall Break. They are working on logistics.

• President's Council on Accessibility – DePriest- not met yet

• Shared Leave – Senator Mallonee, Senator Jean: 7 cases and approved them all

• Staff Excellence in University Service Awards – Senator Niesen – not met yet

• Student Government – Culbertson: President Williams came to speak to them and talked about the regularly scheduled town hall meetings and being more transparent about student fees. Reported on the enrollment numbers as well. SGA will distribute a parking survey soon.

• Sustainability Advisory Committee – Senator Letterman: nothing to report

• Sustainability Commission – Senator Wilkins: nothing to report.

• Transportation Advisory – Senator Bogue: nothing to report

• University Council – Bridges: Advancement search committee, searches in academic affairs such as Dean Minert and college of Ed. Policy update on out-of-state employee hiring: PAF hires must now only work in Missouri, Arkansas, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia - transition/adjustments allowed through July 2027. Also, change to how the graduate tuition fee waiver is taxed. Participation verification with financial aid went well. Lots of construction is wrapping up so we are transitioning to more maintenance.

• University Space Allocation – Senator Hader – have not met

• Wall of Fame – Chair Webster: not met

• West Plains Staff Senate – nothing to report

• Williams' Welcome – Chair Webster: has not happened since last meeting

• Wyrick Commission – Secretary Piercy – nothing to report

Internal Committee Reports

a) Public Affairs (Watkins/Harter): Adopt a Street next week. Book discussion coming up for the Public Affairs Conference speaker on the 22nd in Library room 107 at 2 pm. Oct 13th is the Breast Cancer Luncheaon, Teri Trickey is looking for volunteers to help. Next meeting on Zoom on September 15th at 3:30.

b) Staff Activities (Mallonee/Babb): Springfield Cardinals game was the biggest turnout ever. Tailgate for Heroes Day game on Sept 12th – football game is at 6pm. Soccer game tailgates went well – MSU won both games. Employee Kick-off event went well and had a good turnout. Committee meets on 3rd Wed in Sept at 1:30 Library 303.

c) Staff Development: (Van Rhein/Anderson) met on Tuesday – will meet the Tuesday before Staff Senate every month. Planning a book swap will be in December and looking at a Professional Development Day for all of the University.

d) Staff Outreach: (Schlinder/Martin) Nothing to report; meeting right after this meeting

e) Goal 3 group (Bridges/Reed) : have met twice, dividing into smaller subgroups - subgroup 1 (Reed): Pay in general, CUPA data and transparency; subgroup 2 (Hader): budget process and strategies to be prepared for good and bad budget years; subgroup 3 (Bridges): employee recognition, advancement and shared governance, and things like faculty being included in staff appreciation; subgroup 4 (Bohlen): looking at all the other details from Goal 3 and what our priorities are, like bi-weekly pay and fee waivers.

OLD BUSINESS

a. None

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NEW BUSINESS

a. What kind of Staff Senate swag or gear would you be interested in? New Branding means we may need new shirts, jackets, or other apparel. Promo materials for events and giveaways. Suggestions came in for Staff Senate jackets again as well as nice shirts for BearWear Friday. Discussed doing jackets for those who do not have them yet but also possibly doing shirts.
b. Free-Speech areas and the amplification in Bear Paw near yoga classes and counseling center in Magers and near residence halls. By law we have to require free-speech zones. Maybe we could adjust the sound amplification policy – this only applies to outside groups, internal MSU groups and individuals can protest/speak anywhere.

OPEN FORUM

a. Chair Webster attended Grizzly Summit – showed photo; all of West Plains campus can fit in one room.
b. Senator Martin brought up a proposed data center in Springfield and the Meador Park neighborhood group's involvement so that we can all be aware.
c. Senator Ybanez said that Springfield Tenants United just reached 150th court case and have city council support – pushing to stop unjustified evictions
d. Guest Keele announced that advisor forums are beginning and ok for any employee to attend.
e. Parliamentarian Hader mentioned that the Public Affairs conference session is happening at the end of Sept and we are all encouraged to attend.
f. Senator Letterman mentioned the new format to Inside Missouri State
g. Chair Webster reminded us of the State of the University on October 2nd at noon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to close September meeting at 12:30pm