

Staff Association Minutes

April 8th, 2026 - 3:00 pm

President's Dining Room



Senators Present In-Person: Jessica Searcy, Chelsea Norton, Trenny Wilson, Kristen Neeley, Jean Foster, Kasey Schmoe, Cassie Robbins, Amy Coats, Cassandra Penick, Sandra Pennock

Staff Present In-Person: Megan Deshon-Runge

Staff Present on Zoom: Jill Voltmer, Tammy Simpson, Jennifer Morris, Haley Lindsey, Lisa Clenin, Erin Keller, Alyssa Striplin, Lara Gilpin, Tiffany LeGrand, Kimberly Groom, Cindy Rilinger, Dana Markt, Susan Garrison, Noelle Ruckman, Tara Vides, Angela Tyler, James Knight, Rhett Smith, Samantha Fowler, Monica Phillips, Brian Insell, Derek Evans, Jessica Hills, Kara Baum, and Lori Bomberger

Committee Reports

- Welcoming & Care:
 - We haven't met, but we have started meeting with the new employees during orientation. Last week was our first time doing this.
- Election, Constitution & Bylaws:
 - Welcome one new member, Brian Insell.
 - Our last meeting was on March 30th to discuss upcoming elections.
 - Nominations are closing today.
 - Emails for acceptance start tomorrow and they will have a week to respond.
 - Ballots for all of the staff to pick our new senators will go live on Friday, April 17th.
 - Ballots will close on Friday, April 24th.
 - We will announce the winners on Monday, April 27th and all of the staff will find out after.
 - The next business our committee is focusing on is to revise Article V, Administrative Functions, Section 2. We are looking to add a sentence or two just to clarify the processes.
- Employee Engagement:
 - Thank you for all that participated in the March 17th event.
 - Mark your calendars for June 9th from 11am to 1pm for a staff professional development event where we will give away some things, serve lunch and listen to a guest speaker. Lots of fun.
 - The next meeting for us is April 20th to start working on Fall events.

Institutional Committees Reports

- Compensation:
 - Haven't met.
- Information Technology and Infrastructure:
 - Haven't met. Meeting planned for in the future.
- Health & Safety:
 - Haven't met.
- Physical Environment:
 - Haven't met.

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Invited Guests

- Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, President:
 - Not in Attendance
- Dr. Jay Johnson, Provost:
 - We are still working on a state wide transfer bill.
 - Utilizing AI software to help determine which courses can transfer, but at this time it is in a pilot program that we were not accepted to participate in.
 - Funding update: The House has decided to reallocate funds as we are all aware of our budget. We are waiting to see if the Senate will pass the House recommended budget and then ultimately what the governor decides to do.
 - A question was raised regarding the Center of Teaching and Learning moving to fall under the GOAL office with a faculty focus. Are we expecting staff to receive professional development from them as well?
 - Staff would be falling under more personal training opportunities. Really plan it around specific areas for what staff need specifically instead of lumping them in with faculty.
 - HLC document is finalizing now. Questions or comments please send them to the team. We are presenting to the board on Thursday, April 23rd.
- Daniel Holt, VP of Finance:
 - Not in Attendance
- Monty Smith, Faculty Liaison
 - Senate elections are complete. Monty Smith was re-elected as a senator. They have not had executive board elections yet.

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

- Jean Foster motioned to approve. Trenny Wilson seconded. All I's.

President's Report - Chelsea Norton

- Thanks to Jean for helping with the budget running in place of our vice president. We had \$3,204.00 in supplies and services. We spent \$1,479.83 on the holiday cheer cart event. That left us with \$1,724.17. The reimbursement request was submitted to accounting and The Foundation on March 27th so we should soon be back to the starting budget of \$3,204.00 in our account.
- Institutional Committees - those who volunteered have been submitted to Dr. Johnson and Daniel. They will follow up with you if you are accepted. It is a 2 year seat.
- Tomorrow morning anyone who was nominated will be receiving an email to accept or decline their nomination. Please watch for your email and if you would like to know more about what it is like to be senator please ask any senators. You can find a list of who your current senators are on the Staff Association page.

Unfinished Business

- N/A

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New Business

- N/A

Open Discussion/Announcements

- JAHLE submissions are due next week.
- The International Fair is tonight in Fulkerson from 5-7pm. Food from at least 20 countries will be there. Entertainment will also be provided.
- President's Concert on Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church, Sunday at 4pm.
- Impact Awards are on May 5th from 11:30am to 1pm in Fulkerson.
- Tomorrow the Foundation for Success donor reception is in Fulkerson.
- We will be having a Tie-Dye event for Sexual Assault again since there was an issue with all students being able to participate in the last one.
- Last week of April will be full of events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We will be partnering with the YWCA. All events will be in Blum Union.

Mark your calendars:

- Next Staff Association meeting: May 13th, 2026 at 3pm in the PDR for Senators. All staff on Zoom.

Motion to End: Jean Foster motions, Cassandra Penick seconds.