

Staff Association Minutes

January 14th, 2026 - 3:00 pm

Spratt 214/216



Senators Present In-Person: Chelsea Norton, Beth Beggs, Cassandra Penick, Kristen Neeley, John Vanderpool, Trenny Wilson, Cassie Robbins, Jean Foster, Sandra Pennock, Amy Coats.

Staff Present on Zoom: Teresa Cobb, Haley Lindsey, Kara Baum, Rhett Smith, Derek Evans, Alyssa Striplin, Lori Bomberger, Erin Keller, Dana Markt, Tracy Sharp, Susan Garrison.

Committee Reports

- Welcoming & Care:
 - Adopted 9 families for the Adopt a Griffon at Christmas time. We had a carry forward balance of \$482.43. We received \$2,748.40 in donations. Spent \$3,007.86 and has \$222.97 to carry forward balance.
 - We have a meeting tomorrow in Popplewell 102 at 9am.
- Election, Constitution & Bylaws:
 - No report as we have not yet met, but we are planning to meet Wednesday January 28th to clean up the election process within our Constitution and Bylaws.
- Employee Engagement:
 - The Holiday Cheer Cart was a success! Aramark decorated the van, dressed up, and was playing Christmas music.
 - We are meeting again Wednesday, January 28th in the cafeteria.
 - We are hoping to purchase frames, and proceed with Staff of the Month awards that are focused around our core values at MoWest. We are planning to award two staff members each month and possibly give out flex to those winners.
 - Discussed the potential to have one annual staff award that would be pulled from the monthly nominations who would receive a designated parking pass.

Institutional Committees Reports

- Compensation:
 - Hasn't met.
- Information Technology and Infrastructure:
 - Hasn't met.
- Health & Safety:
 - Hasn't met.
- Physical Environment:
 - Hasn't met.

Invited Guests

- Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, President:
 - Not present.
- Dr. Jay Johnson, Provost:
 - Not present.
- Daniel Holt, VP of Finance:

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- Not present.
- Monty Smith, Faculty Liaison
 - No report.
- Tama Wagner & Jerry Pickman
 - We get to work with the Missouri legislature. We need to have more consistent advocacy at the State level. We determined that we need more champions for MoWest.
 - Every year when the legislative session starts we are always hoping we will make some leeway.
 - It includes internal stakeholders, faculty, staff, students, and our boards.
 - We are trying to gather more support, we are a part of the community alliance in the Chamber of Commerce.
 - We are trying to advocate why we need support, we are the lowest tuition but also one of the lowest enrolled.
 - We want advocates to have conversations with key stakeholders. It is critical that they hear from staff members on why MoWest is important to us.
 - We want \$4 million for core appropriations this year and we want to support the UMKC dental school that is coming to campus.
 - A question was asked, "What's a timeline where you would want this published?" Tama advised that legislation runs January through early May. We will put together who to send the letters to and share that with Chelsea. So anytime between now through early March.
 - Follow-up questions: Do you need to review them? Tama stated if we wanted them to review them they can, but are not required. Make sure they are heartfelt. We will share the guidelines.
- Rebecca Lobina
 - Workforce development just means training. I came to MoWest with the purpose of bringing up the Houlne Center and offering training.
 - Last quarter we had 36% trained and had 50% revenue.
 - We are now offering custom training
 - We are offering new programs.
 - Not 100% of people go to college. Roughly $\frac{2}{3}$ of the population does not get a degree. They may get a job, then obtain a certification, then take additional college classes, then possibly obtain an additional certification, etc.

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

- Pennick motions, Neeley seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.

President's Report - Chelsea Norton

- No report.

Vice President's Report - Beth Beggs

- No report.

Unfinished Business

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- No unfinished business.

New Business

- No new business.

Open Discussion/Announcements

- Marketing 101 session tomorrow, January 15th at 1pm in Spratt 205 and the 16th in Spratt 205 at 9am.
- Tomorrow 1/15/2026 Alumni Office is throwing a throw back Thursday, make sure to wear your vintage MWSU gear.

Mark your calendars:

- Next Staff Association meeting: February 11th, 2026 at 3pm in PDR location for Senators. All staff on Zoom.

Motion to End: Cassandra Penick motions, Trenny Wilson seconds.