

Staff Association Minutes

September 10th, 2025 - 3:00 pm

Private Dining Room



Senators Present In-Person: Jessica Searcy, Kasey Schmoe, Chelsea Norton, Beth Beggs, Jean Foster, Cassandra Penick, Kristen Neeley, John Vanderpool, Cassie Robbins and Trenny Wilson

Senators Present In-Zoom: Amy Coats

Staff Present In-Person: Samantha Fowler, Kendall Schank, Jennifer Morris, and Megan Deshon-Runge

Staff Present on Zoom: Michelle Diaz, Mary Jo Laupp, Meredith Hartman, Monica Phillips, Rhett Smith, Teresa Cobb, and Dana Markt

Committee Reports

- Welcoming & Care:
 - Met August 27th to discuss merging these two committees and how the roles would come together. Michelle Wolfe and Jean Foster will co-chair the committee this year. Ashley Sollars agreed to hand out our welcoming gift to new staff hires during new hire orientation.
- Election, Constitution & Bylaws:
 - ECB met in August to decide who will stay to serve another term and set our goal. It was proposed to clean up the election language to make it clear how each election should be ran. The committee accepted that goal and will meet again at the end of this month or first of next month.
- Employee Engagement:
 - EEC currently has no chair, but Jennifer Morris did agree to co-chair. At this time Eboard agreed to help while they found their co-chair.
 - Fall Door Decorating Contest is being planned.
 - Administration approved an all campus dress up days plan for spirit week.
 - Staff members who volunteered today to join EEC to help were Kristen Neeley, Trenny Wilson and Cassandra Penick
- John moved to approve the current chair proposals, Trenny seconded. All I's, no abstentions.

Institutional Committees Reports

- Compensation:
 - Met in October to establish a timeline for the year.
- Information Technology and Infrastructure:
 - Has not met.
- Health & Safety:
 - Has not met.
- Physical Environment:
 - Has not met.

Invited Guests

- Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, President:

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- Thank you for all your help around campus. Growth is coming thanks to everyone's hard work and support.
- We are really focusing on how as a university we can meet the workforce demand.
- ECA Enrollment is up.
- Communication from the President's Office will be pushed out more frequently.
- BOG meeting reports will be emailed in a highlight form instead of having to read the entire report.
- Saturday is our 1st Home Football Game as well as Family Day on Campus
- 4th Annual Stair Climb Thursday, September 11th
- Dr. Jay Johnson, Provost:
 - ECA is growing and expanding course offerings.
 - Facility upgrades are receiving rave reviews.
 - Suzanne Kissock has been named Dean for the College of Business & Professional Studies, Michael Charlton has been named Vice Provost for Academic Operations and Tilo Roy has been named Vice Provost of Graduate and Sponsored Programming
 - Lisa May is officially retiring. With her leaving, never fear, commencement is still underway.
 - We do work to help with retention and student success. Evaluating schedules. Having Faculty training on systems that assist with student success.
- Daniel Holt, VP of Finance:
 - Met with Dan from Student Affairs to go over all the great things they have done and will continue to do this Fall.
 - The financial group arrived Monday. They will be here for two weeks while we go through our audit.
 - The physical plant has wrapped up the library project.
 - Phase 1 of Potter Hall is complete.
 - Wilson Hall work for CAP/Head Start program will start soon.
 - The boiler in blum needs to be replaced. It is a lengthy process and we are hoping to do it with as little disruption as possible. While it is replaced there will be no hot water or heat in Blum Union. We are planning for Fall Break, but if we need to it will happen over Winter Break.
 - Tech is migrating to Windows 11.
 - Banner contact is up in 3 years and we are looking at what else is out there with a better cost associated.
 - University Compensation Committee has obtained data from CUPA HR. Benefits as a whole has moved from CBIZ to USI.
 - We will be transitioning from Southern Bank to Commerce Bank.
- Monty Smith, Faculty Liaison
 - Not in Attendance and no report shared.
- Guest Speaker Megan Deshon-Runge
 - Pickle week starts Tuesday, September 16th. We are hosting in honor of National Safety Awareness Month, but we are going to recognize it for one week.
 - SGA will be giving away drink covers on Tuesday in Blum Union.

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- 16th self defense workshop
- 17th is Constitution Day where we will have an ice tea bar and croissants.
- 17th Criminal Justice and Legal Studies will be hosting Midwest Innocence Project with featured speaker Floyd Bledsoe
- Jill Voltmer will be getting her pickleball tournament with a buffet of pickle themed snacks

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

- Jean motioned for approval. Cassandra seconded. All I's, approved.

President's Report - Chelsea Norton

- We are excited about the energy on campus right now. Administration approved the ability to host spirit week during homecoming week. Staff Association has shared a daily dress up opportunity as well as the Employee Engagement Committee bringing back the Door Decorating Contest.

Vice President's Report - Beth Beggs

- Current SA account balance \$3,204.00 as of July 1st.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- None

Open Discussion/Announcements

- Jennifer Morris shared Homecoming day activities: 3:30pm Parade, 4pm Tailgate, 6:00pm Football Game. MWSU is also celebrating 50 years of women's sports and the 10 year anniversary of the Black Alumni.
- Megan Deshon-Runge shared homecoming week activities:
 - Monday, September 29th Blood Drive
 - Tuesday, September 30th Job Fair during the day and Silent Disco at night
 - Wednesday, October 1st Pony Express Museum Tours
 - Thursday, October 2nd Pep Rally in the Spratt Pavilion
 - Friday, Pink Weekend, go watch our Soccer and Volleyball teams compete.

Mark your calendars:

- Next Staff Association meeting: October 8th, 2025 at 3pm in the PDR for Senators. All staff on Zoom.