

**UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING**  
**School of Dental Medicine, Building 280, Room 1100**  
**Zoom Meeting ID 945 0315 5890**  
**October 3, 2024 – 9:00am**  
**Approved Minutes**

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:11 am on Thursday, October 3, 2024, by President-Elect Steven Green.

**Present:** Steven Green (President-Elect), Kelly Jo Hendricks (Past President), Angie White (Secretary), Cindy Cobetto (Treasurer), Evan Lowis (ASR Constituency Rep), Julie Babington, Maria Ferrari, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Christy McDougal, Tiana Montgomery, Brittany Smith, Kat Wright, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio)

**Absent:** Doug James (President), Sara Colvin (ASNR Constituency Rep), Ben Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Mike Hamil, Amy Miller, Dusty Rhodes, Trish Scheibal, Tim Staples

**Guests:** Sonny Drukteinis, Ken Holbert, Keith Becherer, Chris Burcham, Kristen Durnan, Kiy Hunt, Barbara Kane, Heather Knapp, Julie LaTempt-Brazier, Patricia Merritt, Robert Newman, Michelle Nickerson, Jeanette Parmenter, Theresa Rohrbach, Cindy Scarsdale, Ashley Schlosser, Teresa Shipton, Jill Smucker, Brandon Stookey, Stephanie Stookey, Deb Talbot, Bill Weidler, Kay Weis, Thomas Willhoit, Connie Wyvell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes for the September 5, 2024 meeting was not approved. Shane Kessinger made a motion, which was approved, to reject the minutes because they did not include a conversation he had with Chancellor Minor during the question and answer portion of the Chancellor's Presentation. Shane will provide Michael a summary of the conversation from last month, and the minutes will be amended and brought forward at the November meeting for consideration and approval.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Dr. Saulius "Sonny" Drukteinis, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, welcomed Staff Senate to the Alton campus. Dr. Drukteinis provided a brief recent history of the School of Dental Medicine, including the damages/repairs from the Christmas 2023 flood. Dr. Drukteinis has been with SIUE since 2019, and Dean since 2023. October 14 will be Give Kids A Smile. After Dr. Drukteinis left, Ken Holbert, who recently retired from the School of Dental Medicine as the Assistant Dean and Executive Director for Administration, Finance & Operations, gave those in person a tour of the facilities.

**REPORTS:**

President Doug James (provided by Steven Green) – Thank you for serving. Working with Vice Chancellor Jessica Harris for representation on Strategic Plan goal committees. Attended several events, including the Employee Wellness Fair, Staff Senate lunch, SUAA, and University Budget update.

Past President Kelly Jo Hendricks – Thank you to Sarah Kirkpatrick for organizing the Staff Senate lunch. Employee Wellness Fair was well attended, and people who stopped by our booth offered great suggestions. Update from SURS – calculations on retirement benefits, change on July 2025. There is a new estimator as of October 1, 2024.

Administrative Staff Non-Represented Constituency Representative Sara Colvin – Have been hearing concerns from staff regarding vacation rollover. Can we request a review of the carryover vacation policy to allow a later

use date? Currently, it needs to be used by the end of September, which is one of the busiest times on campus with the semester starting. Would HR consider extending it to the end of October?

There were no other executive reports.

**Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs:** Currently reviewing applications.

**Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration:** Will begin search soon. Sent a couple recommendations to Chancellor's Office for consideration.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management:** Will now use a search firm.

**Associate Provost & Dean of the Graduate School:** No update.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

CougarNet info inconsistent with Pay Cert info—should be corrected.

Steven Green read a letter from Trish Scheibal, CSNP Senator. Trish announced her resignation from Staff Senate and thanked everyone.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Public Relations** – Met on 9/18. Talked on list from Wellness Fair. Should we host another Social Security webinar? We can use the TVs around campus to advertise Staff Senate meetings and Staff Senate events.

**Scholarship** – Once the Foundation gets through Homecoming this week, I'm hopeful we can schedule time to discuss the scholarship stipulations we've been working on. I aim to resolve it soon so we can determine an awardee for the outstanding scholarship and move forward with the Staff Senate one shortly after.

**Fundraising** – No update.

**Diversity Initiatives** – October is National Disability Month. We want to be more involved with Diversity Council. Will make a presentation at next month's meeting (ran out of time this month).

**Policy Review** – Discussed Parental Leave Policy. HR is getting questions about the policy. Asked about tuition waiver at SIUE (vs. the tuition and fees waiver at SIUC). Carl didn't have information on that topic at the time of the meeting.

**Staff Wellness** – Hosted a Staff Senate lunch on September 24. During it, there was talk about a vote of no confidence for the Chancellor. There were requests for more transparency in SPA.

**Elections & Operations** – No update.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

TimelyCare Services – Free, 24/7

Cougar Store Sip & Shop – November 19; 5-7 pm

Leadership training – sponsored by StACSS (Staff Advisory Committee for SIU System) – All staff have been emailed the invitation.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Shane Kessinger continued the conversation regarding a Vote of No Confidence. If we go this route, we should get the other Senates behind us. Shane went into recent changes to Facilities, including the Grounds Department being moved to report directly to the Chancellor's Office.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance