

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center
Zoom Meeting ID 945 0315 5890
December 5, 2024 – 8:30am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 8:30 am on Thursday, December 5, 2024, by Past President Kelly Jo Hendricks.

Present: Kelly Jo Hendricks (Past President), Steven Green (President-Elect), Angie White (Secretary), Cindy Cobetto (Treasurer), Ben Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Evan Lowis (ASR Constituency Rep), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Julie Babington, Maria Ferrari, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Amy Miller, Tiana Montgomery, Dusty Rhodes, Tim Staples, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio)

Absent: Doug James (President), Sara Colvin (ASNR Constituency Rep), Mike Hamil, Brittany Smith

Guests: Keith Becherer, Maureen Bell-Werner, Wyatt Bridger, Leighann Fuller, Rachel Garrett, Heather Knapp, Kimberly McClellan, Patricia Merritt, Matthew Miller, Kim Monke, Lisa Mosley, Misty Newman, Robert Newman, Lynn Noe, Tammy O’Neill, Cindy Scarsdale, Ashley Schlosser, Teresa Shipton, Jill Smucker, Brandon Stookey, Jessica Take, Thomas Willhoit, Connie Wyvell, Kathy Zeeman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting minutes from November 7, 2024 were approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Lindy Wagner, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Excellence, Education and Development, provided a brief overview of her unit, which is unique in that it has a dual reporting to two Vice Chancellors: Student Affairs (SA); and Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ADEI). The division of ADEI was announced because of the nationwide Black Lives Matter movement in 2020; Dr. Jessica Harris was installed as the inaugural Vice Chancellor for Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in 2021. Lindy discussed ongoing efforts regarding Inclusive Excellence, which include sustained dialogue, a revamp of the Diversity Council (now called Council for Belonging) which will include the constituency groups. Questions from Staff Senate members included if the Staff Senate Diversity Initiatives committee have a spot on the Council for Belonging (Lindy: We are still looking at what the membership will look like, but we’d love to have someone from Staff Senate), and if anyone is using the office space on the second floor of the MUC (Lindy: currently only Lindy, but this will fluctuate).

REPORTS:

President Doug James – (Provided by Kelly Jo) Thanks for Kelly Jo for filling in while I’m attending BOT and thank you for serving. Attended VCSA candidate presentations. Will check with Office of General Counsel regarding if Staff Senate falls under OMA the say Faculty Senate, Student Government, and UPBC do. Chancellor Minor will attend SSEB later this month to speak on the Grounds reorg and staff morale.

Past President Kelly Jo Hendricks – Attended UPBC on November 21. Institutional Research came to speak about student employment and the benefits of students employed.

There were no other executive reports.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs: Miriam Roccia appointed.

Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration: Still accepting applications.

Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management: Accepting applications in the spring.

Associate Provost & Dean of the Graduate School: Hosted five candidates on campus. Hoping to wrap up next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Still reviewing and recruiting applicants for the Alton Senator vacancies. We have one person in the category of Alton Represented who is interested. We will bring them in next month for consideration and a vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Shane mentioned that the Budget Office is moving into the basement of Rendleman Hall, specifically the old University Governance offices. Michael advised that the old supplies (padfolios for Staff Senate; cups for Faculty Senate) will be moved to a different storage area in Rendleman Hall and Michael will still have access to them as needed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – No update.

Scholarship – No update.

Fundraising – No update.

Diversity Initiatives – Met on 11/21. Looking at Staff Demographics.

Policy Review – HR and General Counsel will attend this month's webinar regarding Paid Parental Leave Policy. At our last Policy Review meeting, it was discussed that accrual rates are uneven. There were also questions and concerns about WFH agreements.

Staff Wellness – The Paid Parental Leave Policy Webinar will be on 12/18 at noon in the MUC Willow Room or via Zoom. Bonnie, Ed and Carl from HR and Phyleccia from General Counsel will be on hand to give updates and answer questions as it relates to the updated Policy.

Elections & Operations – Need to add another member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a) Faculty & Staff Winter Reception
 - i. Tuesday, Dec 10 1:00 – 4:00 pm MUC Meridian Ballroom
 - ii. Thursday, Dec 12 11:30 am -1:00 pm (Alton SDM - Gymnasium)
- b) Fall Commencement Ceremonies Dec 13 and 14 Contact Brian Bray to Volunteer
- c) MLK Luncheon – Jan 22 11:00 am – 2:00 pm MUC Meridian Ballroom (Details available on SIUE's Kimmel Belonging and Engagement Hub web site)
- d) Leadership Training: February 24-27. More registration opportunities will be emailed to Staff
- e) Upcoming Guest Speakers at Staff Senate
 - i. January – Mary Zabriskie (EOA)
 - ii. February – Collin Van Meter (SURS)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a) Staff Turnover Report

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shane Kessinger continued the conversation regarding a Vote of No Confidence, and how the Grounds department has been re-aligned to report under the Chancellor's Office. Shane had printed pictures that appear to show trees and bushes that have been irresponsibly trimmed/torn apart. Kelly Jo advised that as Doug has mentioned before, these complaints will be brought forward to Chancellor Minor at SSEB.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance