

**UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING**  
**Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center**  
**Zoom Meeting ID 945 0315 5890**  
**September 5, 2024 – 9:00am**  
**Approved Minutes**

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:01 am on Thursday, September 5, 2024, by President Doug James.

**Present:** Doug James (President), Steven Green (President-Elect), Kelly Jo Hendricks (Past President), Angie White (Secretary), Cindy Cobetto (Treasurer), Sara Colvin (ASNR Constituency Rep), Ben Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Evan Lewis (ASR Constituency Rep), Julie Babington, Maria Ferrari, Mike Hamil, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Christy McDougal, Amy Miller, Tiana Montgomery, Brittany Smith, Tim Staples, Kat Wright, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio)

**Absent:** Dusty Rhodes, Trish Scheibal

**Guests:** James Minor, Bill Winter, Lety Lara-Cassen, Danielle Allen, Jerrica Ampadu, Keith Becherer, Katie Eilers, David Goodwin, Andrea Keller, Heather Knapp, Jessica McCawley, Patricia Merritt, Michelle Meyer, Kim Monke, Robert Newman, Alison Reeves, Theresa Rohrbach, Krista Rosner, Patrick Sears, Brandon Stookey, Stephanie Stookey, Deb Talbot, Thomas Willhoit, Connie Wyvell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes for the August 1, 2024, meeting was approved as written.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Chancellor James Minor presented to Staff Senate and offered a few campus updates. He thanked those who participated in Convocation and welcoming students to the 2024-25 school year. We want to congratulate the students who made the decision to attend SIUE. Dr. Minor also spoke on the commitment to first year students. Regarding enrollment, we are down from last fall. The silver lining is that because of the delays in FAFSA and the critical vacancies in Enrollment Management, there was a great effort to mitigate the loss. Please thank those working in Enrollment Management for their hard work. We hope to do a better job recruiting in Missouri; our numbers are too low, even in Metro STL. Dr. Minor summarized the campus update that went out yesterday via the listserv, which announced the staffing changes and reporting change in the Budget Office. Dr. Minor thanked outgoing Budget Director Bill Winter for his many years of service. Dr. Minor opened the floor to questions, but first asked Staff Senate what their agenda was for this school year and how it will advance student success. The questions asked include:

- What do new trash cans and construction banners have to do with student retention and recruitment?
- Why are we wasting money sending vehicles for repair when we could hire mechanics and have the repairs done in house?
- Why are departments on campus such as Human Resources so understaffed that no one is there to return phone calls and answer questions, which is negatively reflecting on student recruitment and retention?
- How do we respond to colleagues who say this is the lowest morale has ever been when we are not receiving raises (but Carbondale is)?

**REPORTS:**

President Doug James – Student Government wants to address things in Dining Services they aren't happy about and asked how Staff Senate could help. There are new staff lists on the Teams channel.

Past President Kelly Jo Hendricks – Thank you for those who asked questions to the Chancellor this morning. We had our first UPBC meeting for the fall last week—discussed the Wesley Peachtree report. Also had an emergency UPBC meeting yesterday to discuss the items which were later announced on the listserv regarding the staffing/reporting line change to the Budget Office.

President-Elect Steven Green – Planning to attend BOT in person next week since it's on the Alton campus, though most likely will be working tech, not watching.

Civil Service Negotiated & Prevailing Constituency Representative Ben Kaminski – Backpay issue has been resolved as far as we know.

There were no other executive reports.

**Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs:** Mike Schultz has been approved as the Staff Senate representative. Anthem Executive is going to send applicants to the search committee on a rolling basis.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management:** Waiting on next steps.

**Associate Provost & Dean of the Graduate School:** Still waiting to get an Interim Graduate School Dean in place. As of now, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School Liz Cali is serving as both Associate Dean and Acting Dean.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The topic of addressing pay treatment for unrepresented staff was brought up when Dr. Minor spoke, and he said that he would like to give raises to staff, as long as it can be done responsibly, and it depends on enrollment.

Senator Assignments:

- Constituency Rep – Civil Service Open Range: Christy McDougal has agreed to serve in this role.
- Alton/CSOR Senator vacancy – still looking to fill this vacancy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

CougarNet info inconsistent with Pay Cert info—HR/ITS is looking into this discrepancy.

There has been a request for a Staff Ombudsman, like the Faculty Ombudsman. Mike Hamil stated that this topic was brought up when he was Staff Senate President many years ago, and this was not pushed forward by upper administration.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Public Relations** – Will meet on 9/18.

**Scholarship** – Sara is going to go back to the bylaws for the award to see if we can get some more flexibility regarding how to award it.

**Fundraising** – No update.

**Diversity Initiatives** – No update.

**Policy Review** – If you have agenda items for the next meeting, send them to Kelly Jo.

**Staff Wellness** – Planning a “Lunch with Staff Senate” on September 24, 12 pm – 1 pm.

**Elections & Operations** – No update.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

SUAA Walk & Talk w/ Bryan Soady Sept 10, 12:30-1:30 Cougar Statue

SIUE Colonial Life – Enrollment thru Sept 15

University Budget Update – Rescheduled for September 25

Employee Wellness Fair – 9/17/24 - Signup to host table

Timely Care Services – Free, 24/7

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

Women Self Defense Course – September 14

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

We will be on the Alton campus for our October meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance