

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center
Zoom Meeting ID 945 0315 5890
November 7, 2024 – 9:00am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:00 am on Thursday, November 7, 2024, by President Doug James.

Present: Doug James (President), Steven Green (President-Elect), Cindy Cobetto (Treasurer), Sara Colvin (ASNR Constituency Rep), Ben Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Evan Lowis (ASR Constituency Rep), Maria Ferrari, Mike Hamil, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Amy Miller, Tiana Montgomery, Dusty Rhodes, Brittany Smith, Tim Staples, Kat Wright, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio)

Absent: Kelly Jo Hendricks (Past President), Angie White (Secretary), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Julie Babington

Guests: Elza Ibroscheva, Mike Pulley, Pat Sears, Tracy Catelli, Rachel Garrett, Kiy Hunt, Christopher McCawley, Kim Monke, Robert Newman, Theresa Rohrbach, Brandon Stookey, Stephanie Stookey, Jessica Take, Deb Talbot, Kara Wiemers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Amended meeting minutes from September 5, 2024, along with meeting minutes from October 3, 2024 were both approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Pat Sears, Registrar, gave a detailed description of his office and what his team members do throughout the semester and during Commencement. His office takes a great deal of the integrity of academic records. Staff Senators asked questions about how short staffed the Registrar's Office is. Since Laura Strom (former Registrar) retired, about 1/3 of the office has left with retirements, promotions or resignations; however, slowly the office is building back the vacancies.

Associate Provost Elza Ibroscheva made a presentation regarding the Higher Learning Commission's comprehensive review. SIUE's evaluation visit will be March 31-April 1, 2025. Dr. Ibroscheva highlighted the HLC Criteria, the Assurance Review, the Federal Compliance Review, Compliance with Assumed Practices, Student Opinion Survey, On-site Peer Review Visit, the SIUE Steering Committee, the HLC Assurance Argument timeline, the Communication Plan, and how we can help.

Mike Pulley, who has represented SIUE/Staff Senate on the State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS) Board since 2012, spoke to Staff Senate about the Board to see if there was any last-minute interest to run for the vacant spot. Although Mike is not seeking another term, he's also unwilling to have this important role go unfilled, so he will serve by default unless another member announces their intent to run for the spot, at which time Mike will withdraw. If there are any interested individuals, please reach out directly to Mike Pulley.

REPORTS:

President Doug James – Thank you for serving. Working with Vice Chancellor Jessica Harris for representation on Strategic Plan goal committees. Yesterday the first finalist for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs position was on campus. The committee intends to wrap up the search before Thanksgiving. Met with Student Government last month; it was humbling watching how much the students rely on Roberts Rules of Order compared to other bodies on campus. Attended Council of Councils in Chicago last month.

There were no other executive reports.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs: First candidate on campus yesterday.

Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration: Search committee has met with the search firm. Likely will look at applications after the holidays.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management: Will now be the **Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management** search. Position has been posted.

Associate Provost & Dean of the Graduate School: Concluded zoom interviews with 13 semi-finalists. Committee is going to meet and discuss who to bring on campus.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Still reviewing and recruiting applicants for the Alton Senator vacancies (Non-Represented & Represented).

Doug met with Mary Sue Love regarding the Ombuds process and the inquiry about getting a Staff Ombuds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christy McDougal is asking for an exception to absence rules per Bylaws Section 17, because she will need to miss the next several meetings due to a Grand Jury commitment. Staff Senate approved this exception by unanimous acclamation.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – No update.

Scholarship – We are moving forward, more soon.

Fundraising – No update.

Diversity Initiatives – Met on 10/29. MLK celebration is on 1/22/25, 11 am – 2 pm, Let Us March On.

Policy Review – No update.

Staff Wellness – Please see flyer...Paid Parental Leave Policy webinar, 12/18/24 at 12 pm, MUC Willow Room & Zoom. At most recent Staff Wellness meeting, the committee talked about starting a Staff Senate Facebook page. Also brought up partnering with the SIUE Police to do drug take backs in the future.

Elections & Operations – No update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

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. Doug James brought up how he spoke with the Faculty Senate President and Student Government President about the ongoing issues. Doug also mentioned that he will invite Chancellor Minor to a future SSEB meeting to discuss hard questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance