

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room
Teams Meeting ID 296 016 262 1225 6
August 7, 2025 – 9:00 am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:20 am on Thursday, August 7, 2025, by President Steven Green.

Present: Steven Green (President), Sarah Kirkpatrick (President-Elect), Doug James (Past President), Evan Lowis (Secretary), Jory Chadwick (Treasurer), Benedict Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Rachel Garrett (ASR Constituency Rep), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Linda Eilerman, Shane Kessinger, Amy Mitwally, Lisa Mosley, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio), Jessica Take, Angie White
Absent: Maria Ferrari, Cheryl Jordan, Angela Pritchett, Dusty Rhodes
Guests: Jill Smucker, Keith Becherer, Maureen Bell-Werner, Karyn Chambers, Kelly Jo Hendricks, Alarice Houston, Barb Kane, Robert Newman, Thomas Rosner, Brandon Stookey, Stephanie Stookey, Connie Wyvell, Kathleen Zeman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from both the regular and special June 5, 2025 meetings were approved as written.

REPORTS:

President Steven Green – Attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Springfield last month. Chancellor Lane noted a 5% increase in summer enrollment. Chancellor Minor referenced Commencement, including a Golden Grad who finally walked across the stage after 60 years. Dr. Minor also mentioned raising \$2.8 million for One Day, One SIUE. The partnership with the Universidad Central del Ecuador for the MBA program and the AACSB China Exchange Program were discussed. Recently, HLC Accreditation visits occurred; Chancellor Minor indicated that SIUE passed its accreditation. Another report mentioned an average of employees remaining within the system of 12.4 years. I have similar thoughts, but it's an average. Given the turnover issues, this could mean some employees have been with the school longer than others. I found this statistic interesting.

Past President Doug James – Also attended the Board of Trustees meeting last month. Another thing I thought was interesting in the presentations was the focus on graduates and incoming students. After, we got to attend the new employee orientation a couple weeks ago and briefly present about University Staff Senate; the heartbeat of that is I want incoming employees to understand who we are and what our role is. I also was able to manage the invitations to all the trainings that Dave and Annette Heth did for leadership training—113 people at SIUE participated in those trainings!

President-Elect Sarah Kirkpatrick – Committee assignments have been updated since our July retreat. Those are available, and Michael will put the information on the website. If you are no longer interested in a committee or would like to switch committees, please reach out to the committee chairs. If you look at your committee and realize maybe you have too many or not enough people, reach out to me.

There were no other executive reports.

Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration – Paula Garcia was our representative. Joe Lataille selected as Vice Chancellor; starts on August 18, 2025.

Executive Director of Marketing & Communications – Ashley Chitwood is now our representative on the search. They were informed that they are inviting three candidates the week of August 11 to interview on campus. There were 17 initial candidates, who talked with the Chancellor—and he narrowed it down to a top three.

Curator of University Events – Annie Crews is our representative. Four candidates have been invited for a second-round virtual interview with Jessica Harris, Lety Lara-Cassen, and Daniel Ready. Next steps will be decided after that.

SIU System VP for Financial and Administrative Affairs – Kelly Jo Hendricks was our representative. Justin Oates selected; unsure about start date. He will also serve as Board of Trustees treasurer, so we'd imagine he will be installed by the September Board meeting.

Director of Government and Community Relations – Maria Ferrari is our representative. They've narrowed down the initial list of candidates and are going to begin doing Zoom (or Teams) interviews next week.

Director for the Institute for Community Justice & Racial Equity – Lisa Mosley is our representative. No update.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance – Teri Gullledge is our representative. They are in the process of meeting for the first time to determine who will be called in for first round interviews this week.

There were no more executive searches.

NOMINATION:

There are three vacancies in the Administrative Staff Non-Represented category, of which we have one applicant expressing interest in joining Staff Senate. Jill Smucker, Director of Graduate Education, gave a brief introduction which included her interest in serving on University Staff Senate. Jill's application was approved by acclamation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Open Seats for Administrative Staff Non-Represented – After Jill's election to Staff Senate, we still have two vacancies for the ASNR category.

Open Seats for East St. Louis Senators – Due to a vacancy and an election to the Executive Board, both East St. Louis Center seats are vacant.

If you know anyone who would like to apply, feel free to send them our way!

NEW BUSINESS:

Revival of Staff Senate Scholarship – The Scholarship Committee is currently in the process of getting access to things. Currently, the university system for managing scholarships is transitioning from University Advancement to Student Affairs. This transition was supposed to go in effect by the end of July. Amanda will follow up with Student Financial Aid regarding our access. Once everything is set up, the committee is planning to meet in September with the goal that we are going to advertise a scholarship to be awarded in Spring 2026.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – No report.

Scholarship – See update above.

Fundraising – No report.

Policy Review – After the HR Director position abruptly changed hands, we are unsure who to contact, and if the current interim, Deb Talbot, is available and interested in meeting with us. Kelly Jo will reach out to Deb.

Staff Development & Well-Being – Thank you Maria for scheduling regular Drug Take Back events throughout the semester. The next one coming up is on August 25, 26, and 27. August 25 will be on the Edwardsville campus, August 26 will be on the Alton campus, and August 27 will be on the East St. Louis campus. All will take place between 11 am – 12:30 pm.

Diversity Initiatives – Rachel sent a few emails to Lindy Wagner asking for clarification regarding the current makeup of Diversity Council; however, we haven't heard back yet.

Elections & Operations – No report.

ACTION ITEMS:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. 2025 New Student Welcome Parade – August 15th
- b. Welcome Weekend – August 14-17 (1st year student move in)
- c. Still seeking Move-In Volunteers – August 13-14
- d. Volunteer Opportunity – New Student Orientation – August 15
- e. First day of Fall Semester – August 18
- f. Homecoming/Family Weekend – September 22-28
- g. COUGARFEST – Rock the Quad! – September 26
- h. Cougars Unleashed Homecoming Run & Pancake Breakfast – September 27
- i. Cougar Fan Zone Featuring NPHC Yard Show – September 27

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Will discuss a couple items with the Executive Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shane Kessinger discussed wasteful spending. He mentioned the University Marketing & Communications Department wrapped the elevator and stairwell doors in Rendleman Hall without Facilities Management's consent. The fire-rated stairwell doors were ordered removed by the fire marshal. After removal, the doors needed repainting due to ripped paint. Shane also mentioned the quad lighting and flowers. He questioned whether students prefer these amenities and expressed concern that the Chancellor makes decisions without Facilities' input.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance