

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room
Teams Meeting ID 231 357 986 939 61
January 8, 2026 – 9:00 am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:09 am on Thursday, January 8, 2026, by President Steven Green.

Present: Steven Green (President), Sarah Kirkpatrick (President-Elect), Doug James (Past President), Bethany Friedrich (ASNR Constituency Rep), Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Amy Mitwally, Lisa Mosley, Angela Pritchett, Amanda Russell, Jill Smucker, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio), Jessica Take, Angie White

Absent: Evan Lewis (Secretary), Jory Chadwick (Treasurer), Benedict Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Rachel Garrett (ASR Constituency Rep), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Linda Eilerman, Maria Ferrari, Josie Palitzsch, Dusty Rhodes

Guests: Angie Barclay, Dana Berriozabal, Michelle Black, Phyleccia Cole, Xanthe Emerick, Roxanne Field, Barbara Kane, Ora Lockett, Jessica McCawley, Anthony Meyer, Misty Newman, Robert Newman, Jeanette Parmenter, Thomas Rosner, Teresa Shipton, Brandon Stookey, Jennifer Wagner, Patricia Werner, Connie Wyvell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting minutes from December 11, 2025 were approved as written.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Steven Green read a land acknowledgement provided by Julie Zimmermann from the Anthropology department: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville exists in and serves a region that includes the lands of the Kiikaapoi (treaty in Edwardsville, 1819); The Illinois Confederacy, including the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Cahokia, and Tamaroa (treaty in Edwardsville, 1818); Dhegiha Siouan peoples; and others. We affirm their contemporary and ancestral ties to the land and their contributions to this place. In alignment with the academic mission of the institution, we are committed to building responsible relationships with indigenous communities through the development of educational pathways and opportunities for indigenous students and the advancement of research and knowledge about indigenous peoples, cultures, and histories.

REPORTS:

President Steven Green – Chancellor Minor attended last month’s SSEB meeting, providing updates on graduation, budget, campus improvement projects, AI policy development, and administrative structure concerns. A budget update to the University is expected in January. Commencement faced technical and logistical issues, including overcrowding and screen visibility. Steven now has the Chancellor’s cell phone number. Regarding the new Vice Chancellors/Assistant or Associate VCs, it was noted that the university is “administratively thin” compared to similar-sized universities.

Past President Doug James – Confusion exists regarding coding time off during inclement weather. A synopsis of implementing letter days will be created and shared. UPBC continues to explore merging with the University Quality Council. We’re discussing areas of overlap, efficiency, effectiveness, and representation. Also participated in Commencement, which is inspiring and a privilege.

President-Elect Sarah Kirkpatrick – I volunteered at Commencement, helping with the check-in process. I wanted to shout out to Amy Mitwally for organizing so well. It was a great experience with all the students and volunteers!

Secretary Evan Lowis (read by Steven) – Continuing to send out padfolios to staff upon their one-year anniversary with SIUE. If there are any events you would like to be advertised by Staff Senate, please send them my way to be included in my reports.

There were no other executive reports.

Associate Vice Chancellor for East St. Louis Educational Programming and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educational Pathways and Community Engagement – Met and provided feedback on all the candidates. There were two finalists per position, and all notes were turned into the Provost's Office for consideration, and we don't know the outcome yet. Dr. Chris Slaten, Dean of the Graduate School, did a **phenomenal** job managing both searches.

Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff – There were 48 candidates who have applied, so we will go through those in the coming weeks. We will do Zoom interviews January 15 and 16, then have campus interviews January 22 and 23, and possibly the week of January 29.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs – First round of interviews and recommendations are completed; on-campus interviews are expected later in January.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources – Throughout December, multiple listening sessions were held with various target groups, including constituency heads and HR. ACES, a search firm, will be recruiting for this position. As of now, ACES is still recruiting for this position.

Dean of the School of Engineering – Cody Schlosser from ITS will be the Staff Senate representative. The search committee has not met yet.

NEW CANDIDATE:

There are two vacancies on Staff Senate representing the East St. Louis campus, and we have one person interested in filling the CSOR/ASNR position. TiJauna Ingram, Department Informational Supervisor for the TRIO Upward Bound Programs, introduced herself and expressed her interest in serving on the Staff Senate. Her application was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Poll Results, Staff Senate – Steven read a summary from the Staff Senate poll results. 16 responses were gathered. Staff generally appreciate the effectiveness of Staff Senate communication but desire better compensation, benefits, and transparency from upper administration. Concerns were raised about salary compression, lack of administrative support, and the prioritization of aesthetics over pressing issues. While acknowledging the administration's efforts in financial management and student retention, staff emphasized the need for improved communication, transparency, and a focus on staffing and compensation.

Poll Questions, Staff Senate – A poll will be sent to staff to gather feedback on their confidence in the current administration and areas for improvement. It includes questions about communication,

satisfaction, and specific concerns, with an option for anonymity. The goal is to present the feedback to upper administration. Jill Smucker and Sarah Kirkpatrick helped construct the poll.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – No update.

Scholarship – Scholarships are open, and applications are due 1/31/26.

Fundraising – No update.

Policy Review – Shane inquired about the interim positions for Harry Holmes, III and Dan Ready. Steven said he'd investigate.

Staff Development & Well-Being – No update.

Diversity Initiatives – The new Council for Belonging & Equity hasn't met yet, but the Chair welcomes concerns, requests, ideas, and issues from the Staff Senate to present at the Executive Board meeting in January.

Elections & Operations – No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. No Hangtag after 12/31/2025, Update Vehicles in Parking Portal
- b. 43rd Annual MLK Luncheon Jan. 21 11 am in the Meridian Ballroom/MUC
- c. Nominate Student Leader for Cougar Connectors – due by Jan. 20
- d. Mental Health First Aid Training Sessions Still Offered
- e. East St. Louis LRC Food Drive

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Amy Mitwally thanks all the Commencement volunteers for their support. Special thanks to Sarah, Lisa, and TiJauna, fellow Staff Senators, for helping at the sign-in station.

The FM Director search's status continues to be unknown since no FM Department representatives served on the committee and haven't received updates.

The Alton Office Support Staff received an email yesterday requesting our detailed job duties be sent to the Dean's Office. We're concerned about this and if it's a justification for not filling campus openings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance