

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
East St. Louis Center, Building B, Room 2074
Teams Meeting ID 264 689 323 990 01
March 5, 2026 – 9:00 am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:07 am on Thursday, March 5, 2026, by President Steven Green.

Present: Steven Green (President), Sarah Kirkpatrick (President-Elect), Evan Lowis (Secretary), Jory Chadwick (Treasurer), Rachel Garrett (ASR Constituency Rep), Benedict Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Linda Eilerman, Maria Ferrari, TiJauna Ingram, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Amy Mitwally, Josie Palitzsch, Angela Pritchett, Dusty Rhodes, Amanda Russell, Jill Smucker, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio), Jessica Take, Angie White

Absent: Doug James (Past President), Lisa Mosley

Guests: Mark Dochterman, Tandra Taylor, Keith Becherer, Michelle Black, Phyleccia Cole, Karyn Chambers, Kristen Durnan, Chris Jackson, Lisa Johnson, Julie LaTempt-Brazier, Madalynn McKenzie, Matthew Miller, Kimberly Monke, Misty Newman, Robert Newman, Curtis Pointer III, Theresa Rohrbach, Thomas Rosner, Alexis Sager, Jay Sanders, Teresa Shipton, Brandon Stookey, Pollyann Walters, Jennifer Wagner, Patricia Werner, Connie Wyvell, Letrice Young

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 Kiiikaapoi (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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting minutes from February 11, 2026, were reviewed. Page three's Fundraising Committee section lists a "**dime**-to-donate program" instead of "**dine**-to-donate program." The minutes were approved with the correction.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dr. Mark Dochterman, East St. Louis Center Deputy Director, and Dr. Tandra Taylor, Assistant VC for Educational Pathways and Community Engagement, welcomed Staff Senate to the Wyvetter H. Younge Higher Education Campus (WHYHEC) and gave an overview of the services provided. The East Saint Louis campus offers federally funded summer programs like TRIO, Upward Bound, and a Veterans program. They collaborate with Building Futures and the dental clinic for resources and volunteer opportunities. Volunteers are needed to organize the campus, especially in building D near the We Care clinic, and sort clothing donations at the clinic. Dr. Tandra Taylor, the new Assistant VC, aims to enhance services and support the university's mission, particularly around access and opportunity. The SIUE Freedom School program, a literacy camp for future students, is considering supporting multiple summer programs on the main campus due to limited classroom space.

REPORTS:

President Steven Green – The Chancellor will resume listening sessions with randomly selected smaller groups to address their concerns. A work group is being formed to draft a policy on the university's use of AI. The scholarship program is progressing, with finalists to be announced soon.

President-Elect Sarah Kirkpatrick – Volunteers are needed for the We Care Clinic community resource room.

There were no other executive reports.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration – Process is going really well.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources – The committee is still working on first round interviews, with the hope to have on-campus interviews by the end of March.

Dean of the School of Engineering – A job description has been created and posted on some job boards. The search firm still wants candidates on campus by the end of April.

Dean of Students – We are moving along, and we'll know more about in-person interviews towards the end of March.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Second Reading of Amendment to Constitution – Two amendments to the University Staff Senate Bylaws are proposed. The first amendment adds a representative from the Belleville Campus (making the total number of total Staff Senators 23, up from 22), and the second amendment adjusts the number of elected members from the Open Range/Confidential, Managerial, and Supervisory Exclusions classifications (from six members down to five members) and the elected members from the Negotiated and Prevailing classifications (from seven members up to eight members). This adjustment is due to the number of Open Range employees re-classified as Negotiated and Prevailing. This was a second read, so an official vote took place. **All voting members of the Staff Senate unanimously approved these amendments.**

Parking Policy Update – Parking policy updates are being considered, but the idea of basing parking fees on household income was rejected by Staff Senate members. The current system, where all staff pay the same fee, is seen as unfair, especially for lower-income staff. A tiered system based on salary could benefit some but increase costs for others, potentially causing tension. The discussion centers on implementing a tiered parking system at the university, where parking costs are based on factors like income or job classification, rather than a flat rate.

Update on Inquiry into Multimedia Supervisor – The multimedia supervisor position will not be posted due to various reasons, and the decision will not be appealed.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Cameras on Campus – Shane raised a concern to Staff Senate for follow-up. With new security cameras being installed around campus buildings, concerns were raised about the lack of adherence to the existing camera policy, which mandates the formation of an advisory committee to oversee surveillance installations. The Video Surveillance Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from various campus groups, is supposed to meet annually to review surveillance installations, ensure compliance with the policy, and issue an annual report.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – The PR committee will meet on March 11 at 11:30 am. We will be discussing our event on March 17 for the Social Security webinar. If anyone wants to participate and help with that, I greatly appreciate any help that we can get. Also, we'll be sending out a quarterly report that Friday, some 13th, so if you have any announcements that you would like to be sent out to.

Scholarship – The Staff Senate Scholarship committee has selected two candidates for the award, one for fall 2026 and one for spring 2027. The collective bargaining scholarship had no applicants, so the committee is reaching out to students who submitted drafts to verify their eligibility and considering other candidates from the Staff Senate scholarship pool. If no eligible candidates are found, the committee will repost the collective bargaining scholarship to attract more applicants.

Fundraising – Working with the Foundation to implement community ideas for fund distribution, with slow progress but hopeful for updates soon.

Policy Review – The policy review committee has been stalled due to the absence of its current chair and the lack of communication from Deb Talbot. The committee is urged to meet and decide on a new chair, as Kelly Jo has not been actively involved and Deb Talbot's availability is uncertain. Additionally, HR will be contacted to explore the possibility of assigning a new representative to the committee.

Staff Development & Well-Being – No update.

Diversity Initiatives – Reached out to the other committee members on the main campus to discuss the chair position and is working to get someone to be the chair. The goal is to promote the position and get the committee back on track.

Elections & Operations – Hoping to have a second interested East St. Louis representative voted on next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Understanding Social Security Webinar – 3/17 11:30am – 1pm Teams
- b. Upcoming Career Day Volunteers Needed – Engineering 3/17 MUC: Meridian Ballroom and IT 3/18 MUC: Conference Center – 11am – 2pm
- c. Blind and Visually Impaired Ally Training – 3/20 10am – 12pm – Lovejoy Library: 3rd Floor Conference Room
- d. Nutrition and Dietetics Health Fair – 3/24 12pm – 2pm – MUC: Goshen Lounge
- e. Cougar World Games – 3/25 6-9pm – Student Fitness Center

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Among future guests, the new Facilities Management Director, William Cross, should be invited after a few months. Kevin Wathen, the new Assistant VC for Enrollment Management, was considered last month, but he recently became the Interim Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management upon Andy Benoit's departure, so we should also give him time to settle into his role.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Snowplowing and drainage issues on campus are causing accessibility problems for pedestrians. The

request is to address these issues by adjusting snowplowing practices and improving drainage in specific areas.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance