

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room
Teams Meeting ID 296 695 730 161 934
September 3, 2026 – 9:00 am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:09 am on Thursday, September 3, 2026, by President Sarah Kirkpatrick.

Present: Sarah Kirkpatrick (President), Evan Lowis (President-Elect), Steven Green (Past President), Lisa Mosley (Secretary), Jory Chadwick (Treasurer), Linda Eilerman (CSNP Constituency Rep), Rachel Garrett (ASR Constituency Rep), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Steven Ward (ASNR Constituency Rep), Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Craig Loyet, Amy Mitwally, Josie Palitzsch, Darren “Dusty” Rhodes, Thomas Rosner, Amanda Russell, Jay Sullivan, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio), Jessica Take, Angie White

Absent: Maria Ferrari, TiJauna Ingram, Jill Smucker

Guests: Jenna Nestor, Michelle Black, Charlene Blair, Leslie Boudoursis, Xanthe Emerick, Joseph Lataille, Justin Leonchik, Annika Lochhead, Ora Lockett, Lindsay Miles, Carrigan Murphy, Lynn Noe, Amanda Duval Norwood, Jeanette Parmenter, Wendy Robinder, Teresa Shipton, Kevin Slivka, Deb Talbot, Baran Tokgoz, Jennifer Wagner, Pollyann Walters, Meg Wertin, Connie Wyvell

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Sarah Kirkpatrick 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting minutes from August 6, 2026 were reviewed. A few changes were made, including correcting members who were counted both present and absent. The amended minutes were approved.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Jenna Nestor, Student Body President, spoke to Staff Senate. Jenna highlighted Student Government’s current platforms: advocacy, balance, and connection. In addition, Jenna listed current initiatives: election process, campus lighting, move-out timeline, campus safety walk, and dining operations. Student Government has upcoming events: Homecoming Bonfire (Sept. 24), National Student Day (Oct. 8), Veterans Day Luncheon (Nov. 11), Winter Wishes (Mid Nov.), and State of the Student (Mar. 29). Jenna invited Staff Senate to attend any upcoming Student Government meetings.

REPORTS:

President Sarah Kirkpatrick – Participated in welcoming Charter High School students and volunteered with New Student Movers. Attended convocation, noting the high GPA of the incoming class and the involvement of various departments in welcoming them.

Past President Steven Green – No report. Catching up on work and preparing for upcoming UPBC meetings.

President-Elect Evan Lewis – The University achieved a record-breaking enrollment. [*Reading a report from Angie White, provided by the Professional Staff Association (PSA)*] “PSA is committed to bringing value to the University and our students. We look forward to engaging with the University on this topic and any future plan moves including offices for advisors.”

There were no other executive reports.

Vice Chancellor for Antiracism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Search is paused.

Director of University Events – Search is complete; Olumide Olufowobi has been hired for the position. Olumide formerly was the Events Manager over at the Ritz-Carlton.

Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management – The search was paused; however, it has resumed as of late last week. They are meeting with the search firm this week and are hoping to review applications in late September through October with round one virtual interviews in early November and final campus interviews in mid-to-late November.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Open Senate Seats:
 - i. Civil Service Negotiated and Prevailing (1)
 - ii. Administrative Staff Represented (1)
 - iii. Alton Campus (1)

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. December’s Meeting/BOT: Our original December meeting date, December 3, conflicts with the SIU Board of Trustees meeting, which will be in Carbondale, IL. The December meeting is being moved from the 12/3 to the 12/10 to avoid a conflict with the Board of Trustees meeting. This change was approved unanimously.
- b. MARCOM Brand Guidelines: Concerns were raised about the new brand guidelines, particularly the \$10,000 fine for violations. Questions were asked about the funding of the fines, the staffing of MARCOM to handle time-sensitive requests, and the enforcement of the guidelines, especially regarding the removal of old logos. The need for a discussion with MARCOM was emphasized to address these concerns. MARCOM Director of Communications will be invited to our next Staff Senate meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – No update.

Scholarship – The scholarship committee is working to issue the Fall 2026 scholarship by the September 30 deadline. Moving forward, the scholarship will have separate application periods and awards for Fall and Spring semesters, with the next application period opening in August 2027.

Fundraising – No update.

Policy Review – No update.

Staff Development & Well-Being – No update.

Diversity Initiatives – The Council for Belonging and Equity executive board will meet for the first time tomorrow, followed by ad hoc committee meetings as needed.

Elections & Operations – Getting acquainted with the new system Engage.

CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Beginning Sept. 1-Sign-in changes for SIUE Microsoft Accounts
- b. September 2-Black Student Affinity Welcome
- c. September 5 Deadline-Nominate a student for Rotary Student of the Month
- d. September 11-Connection is Prevention: Supporting Youth Mental Health in a Rapidly Changing World. Free virtual conference
- e. October 14-16-Leadership Workshops
- f. October 1-Next Staff Senate Meeting (Alton)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Amanda Duvall Norward, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, confirmed that the SPA forms for two mechanics have been submitted.

Despite the record enrollment, I've heard about budget cuts in various departments. Has any department received a budget increase with this enrollment? I was just curious because I've been hearing about budget decreases, but has anyone received an increase?

The university's Marketing & Communications department has taken control of departmental websites, causing frustration and inefficiency due to a cumbersome proof system for making updates. This issue is affecting multiple departments, including enrollment management and student government, and is wasting valuable time that could be better spent on other tasks.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance