

**UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING**  
**MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room**  
**Teams Meeting ID 286 530 499 520 11**  
**November 6, 2025 – 9:00 am**  
**Approved Minutes**

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:05 am on Thursday, November 6, 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, Maria Ferrari, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Amy Mitwally, Lisa Mosley, Angela Pritchett, Dusty Rhodes, Jill Smucker, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio), Jessica Take, Angie White

**Absent:** Bethany Friedrich (ASNR Constituency Rep), Amanda Russell

**Guests:** Jenna Nestor, Keith Becherer, Maureen Bell-Werner, Demetrius Cianci Chapman, Katherine Eilers, Kelly Jo Hendricks, TiJauna Ingram, Julie LaTempt-Brazier, Jessica McCawley, Matthew Miller, Misty Newman, Lynn Noe, Jeanette Parmenter, Caleb Pecue, Wendy Robinder, Thomas Rosner, Teresa Shipton, Kristie Signorello, Donnell Smith, Brandon Stookey, Stephanie Stookey, Pollyann Walters, Patricia Werner, Connie Wyvell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Meeting minutes from October 2, 2025 were approved as written.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Jenna Nestor, Student Body President, spoke to Staff Senate. Jenna highlighted Student Government's current platforms: Academics, Health & Wellness, and Community. In addition, Jenna listed current initiatives: campus partner retreat, outreach, Homecoming bonfire, Halloween parade, Veterans Day luncheon, National Students Day, mental health tabling, and expanding MCT shuttle access. Jenna encouraged improved communication and awareness among students and staff, especially among departments like the University Police and Parking Services.

**REPORTS:**

**President Steven Green** – Attended the Council of Councils last month in Chicago. The conference had good speakers on topics of communication and dimensions of growth: personal, collective, and institutional. Attended Give Kids a Smile Day at SDM, which had a good turnout, and involved the Chancellor and external guests.

**Past President Doug James** – Participated in the Fall Walk on the main campus. Attended recent UPBC meetings. Interesting conversations are being had regarding a possible merger between UPBC and University Quality Council, and what the balance of power looks like. Chair Jon Pettibone is steering that discussion.

**President-Elect Sarah Kirkpatrick** – We're doing a "Tell Us Your Story" initiative. We'd like to hear about times you made or attempted to make a difference in a student's life, whether it's a small thing like sharing an umbrella or something bigger. We want to amplify your efforts to upper administration. Also, there are mental health first aid trainings this semester and next semester. The dates are listed on the E today, November 3.

**Secretary Evan Lewis** – Sending out padfolios to welcome our one-year anniversary staff members. They include congratulatory notes, staff member lists, and invitations to monthly meetings with information. Thanks to Michael for updating the staff member lists and providing the pad folios. If you have events you'd like advertised by staff Senate, send them his way so they can include them in their reports.

**Administrative Staff Represented Constituency Representative Rachel Garrett** – Sent my constituents the "What's Your Story" link, along with information about a first-generation college celebration. It was a bit lengthy, but there are upcoming events to celebrate first-generation students.

There were no other executive reports.

**Curator of University Events** – An offer was made to someone and the person accepted. They start on November 13.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance** – Rich Hampton has been selected for this position.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for East St. Louis Educational Programming and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educational Pathways and Community Engagement** – Wrapped up the screening interviews. Will meet next Monday to determine our finalists we will bring to campus for more in-depth interviews.

**Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff** – Job has been posted.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs** – Steven sent recommendations for a representative for the search committee.

After listing the progress of the Staff Senate-appointed search committees, there was a discussion about the rise in positions with the word "Chancellor," including Assistant/Associate Vice Chancellors.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Staff Senate Poll** – Steven will resend the poll to those who haven't completed it. We can't report on poll results until we get more than half the membership's response. If we don't hear anything by the next meeting, we'll report on what we have, noting that it only represents a percentage of members.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Public Relations** – Met on October 15 to discuss goals and action items. Thanks to everyone who attended and the constituency reps for sending quarterly announcements. Upcoming November information includes webinars and exciting events. He also thanked Angie for helping with the transition and providing materials for the padfolios.

**Scholarship** – No action has been taken on the scholarship committee due to a lack of information about the new scholarship platform from the Office of Financial Aid. The Staff Senate is being asked for information about the new platform and its timeline.

**Fundraising** – I'll set aside time tomorrow to draft proposals from the ideas we discussed at the staff Senate retreat. I'll share them with the committee for comments and corrections. I hope to present some of the ideas at the next staff Senate meeting.

**Policy Review** – Deb Talbot requested a list of agenda and policy items for a meeting with VC Joe Lataille. An unresolved list of issues was provided, but a meeting hasn't been confirmed. The unresolved issues include: Accrued Employee Leave Donation Policy; a possible co-sponsored HR/Staff Senate Program; staffing changes and openings in HR; Early Retirement Incentive Program; and a Staff Senate proposal to Vacation Carryover Amounts Memo from March 24, 2025.

**Staff Development & Well-Being** – We did drug take backs in October on all three campuses. We did a Fall Walk. As a reminder, Staff Senate is meeting at Doc's Smokehouse BBQ immediately after this meeting for lunch.

**Diversity Initiatives** – Working with membership to decide who will be Chair.

**Elections & Operations** – No report.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Interim Positions** – Shane Kessinger requested that the Staff Senate investigate the interim positions of Daniel Ready and Harry Holmes, III. Former HR Director Carl Chambers explained that these positions were not permanent but interim. Permanent searches should commence immediately, as both Daniel and Harry have exceeded the standard length of interim hires.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. Lunch at Doc's Smokehouse – Right After This Meeting
- b. Final Flu Vaccine Clinics – Today and November 13 (SSC: Room 0200) Sign up link on E-Today
- c. RAD Self Defense Course – November 8 (Evergreen Room)
- d. SDM Veteran's Care Day – November 13
- e. Pharmacy Career Fair & Residency Showcase – November 19
- f. Wednesday Webinar – "What They Don't Teach You in Graduate School: Supervising Professional Staff" – November 19 / Check E-Today for RSVP Link (10am in person, 2pm online)

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Will discuss the Poll Results at our December meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Cheryl Jordan indicated that her office recorded a FERPA training last week on an iPhone without technical issues, despite the Chancellor claiming he can't make speeches readily available online due to technical difficulties.

Rachel Garrett indicated that their office support person, who got a new job across the hall, won't be replaced. This suggests they're trying to reduce union jobs and reclassify them. I don't know if this is their intention, but it raises questions about who's running the university. The office support essentially runs it.

Shane Kessinger inquired about the Director of Facilities Management search. Notably, no FM department representatives are on the committee, and Staff Senate hasn't been asked to appoint anyone since the search was moved to three reporting lines of the Chancellor. Additionally, Parking Services needs to hire two parking service agents to avoid increasing parking rates and to ensure proper revenue generation. The Chancellor's decision not to hire these positions is concerning, as it could lead to unnecessary stress for student workers and potential safety issues.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance