

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
Belleville Main Building / Room M216
Teams Meeting ID 250 648 977 677 58
December 11, 2025 – 9:00 am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:15 am on Thursday, December 11, 2025, by President Steven Green.

Present: Steven Green (President), Sarah Kirkpatrick (President-Elect), Doug James (Past President), Evan Lowis (Secretary), Jory Chadwick (Treasurer), Bethany Friedrich (ASNR Constituency Rep), Benedict Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep), Rachel Garrett (ASR Constituency Rep), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Linda Eilerman, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Lisa Mosley, Josie Palitzsch, Angela Pritchett, Dusty Rhodes, Amanda Russell, Jill Smucker, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio), Jessica Take

Absent: Maria Ferrari, Amy Mitwally, Angie White

Guests: Tom Spudich, Keith Becherer, Barbara Kane, Kimberly Monke, Misty Newman, Jay Sanders, Teresa Shipton, Brandon Stookey, Pollyann Walters, Patricia Werner, Connie Wyvell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting minutes from November 6, 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 – Attended the Board of Trustees meeting last week. SIU Carbondale reported increased minority enrollment, significant scholarships, and progress on fundraising. SIUE's retention rate rose to 75.7%, the codes program expanded to 100 students, and the Summer Success program expanded to 56 students with 90% achieving a 2.5 GPA or higher. Our Day of Giving raised \$2.9 million, reached \$45.1 million endowment, awarded \$1.8 million in scholarships, and saved \$1.4 million in textbook costs. Undergraduate online programs increased by 29% since FY24, with over 1600 working adults enrolled. Students expressed dissatisfaction with the area despite enjoying the lights. QR codes around the quad collect feedback. Facilities Management and marketing collaborate on the quad redesign, including new building banners. The Chancellor mentioned a potential shift in Facilities Management to better meet the university's needs, but details are unclear. The new campaign number is 278, with a marketing campaign forthcoming.

Past President Doug James – Enjoyed having lunch with Staff Senate at the end of our November meeting! UPBC shifts focus from allocating access funds to strengthening its advisory council effectiveness, merging with the University Quality Council (UQC). The HR Search Committee has begun.

Instead of a Director, the leader will be an Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, with the search firm Aces conducting the search and holding listening sessions.

President-Elect Sarah Kirkpatrick – Sat in on the Staff Ombuds meeting; discussions continue. Attended holiday celebration on the Edwardsville campus and had treats on the East St. Louis campus.

Secretary Evan Lowis – Sent out congratulatory padfolios to 14 SIUE employees celebrating their one-year anniversaries in December.

Open Range Constituency Representative Christy McDougal – SIUE Athletics will adopt the alternate identity of the SIUE 66ers for various times in 2026, starting with men's and women's basketball on New Year's Day. The 66ers will have a new logo and color scheme. All 16 SIUE intercollegiate teams will compete as the 66ers for at least one game. Concerns arose about the cost of rebranding, especially uniforms, and its financial viability. Lack of communication and notice led to confusion and questions.

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 – We had finalists on campus this week. Hoping to have a hiring decision made prior to the holiday break.

Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff – First search committee meeting is scheduled for next week.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs – We are in the middle of first round Teams interviews.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – Meeting scheduled for January to discuss public relations. Information for constituencies can be sent via email or Teams message.

Scholarship – Amanda will soon access the BAM software to review scholarship applications. The scholarship can only be awarded annually during the general application period. Once details are available, the application will be finalized and shared with eligible constituents. The scholarship handbook will be updated and communicated to everyone. The scholarship award will be offered annually instead of every semester. The application is currently open until January 31st. The decision on promoting the scholarship before the Exec Board vote is pending. The scholarship award will be given in one semester, not split over two semesters, as confirmed by Rhonda from Financial Aid. The scholarship awarding process has changed from individual applications for each term to a general application. The award amount can be adjusted and split between fall and spring semesters. There are two separate scholarships: one general scholarship and one for union-represented positions. The system needs to be checked to ensure the union scholarship has an extra step for applicants. Scholarship applications are now managed under Student Financial Aid, adding significant workload to the office. The number of awards per scholarship is flexible but enrollment verification is necessary before awarding. The scholarship funds are sufficient to award at least two \$5000 scholarships. Applications must specify enrollment intentions for both Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters, with unspent funds for Spring not being reallocated.

Fundraising – Jory Chadwick suggested partnering with a restaurant as the first fundraising event, citing concerns about logistics and costs associated with events like bingo.

Policy Review – Shane inquired about the status of interim positions for Harry Holmes, III and Dan Ready. Concerns arose about the lack of progress in filling these positions despite assurances of a full search process. Unethical hiring practices were also raised, particularly regarding Dan Ready's high salary and previous termination from his current company. Doug James suggested contacting Mary Zabriskie, EOA Director, about this process.

Staff Development & Well-Being – Drug take-back events were held on three out of four campuses last week and will continue this spring. Staff development meetings, including social outings and brown bag lunches, will be scheduled in the spring.

Diversity Initiatives – Would like to do a Teams meeting prior to Holiday Break.

Elections & Operations – No report.

ACTION ITEMS:

Parking Policy – Linda Eilerman, who serves on the Parking & Traffic Committee, asked if Staff Senate would like to continue asking about our proposal that Parking Services issues parking passes based off income levels.

Vote of No Confidence Process – Shane Kessinger continued to ask about a vote of No Confidence for Chancellor Minor. Staff Senate's role in shared governance, implications of a vote of no confidence, and faculty confidence in leadership are explored. Diverse staff groups are represented, and an anonymous poll is suggested to assess confidence in the administration. Steven Green indicated that he would present the results of the anonymous Staff Senate poll he conducted at our next meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Tom Spudich, Director of the Forensic Science Master's Program and Professor of Chemistry at SIUE, welcomed Staff Senate to the Center for Crime Science and Violence Prevention (Belleville campus). The Forensic Science program, successful in its third year, offers graduates employment opportunities in crime labs. The program has expanded course offerings, including a Ballistics and fingerprints course, and is collaborating with labs and universities to develop a comprehensive forensic curriculum. The program director is working on accreditation, considering a bachelor's and professional degree in forensics, and pushing to hire another faculty member due to student growth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Fall Commencement – Dec. 12 and 13
- b. Josie Morris' Retirement – Dec. 12 11am – 12:30pm Dunham Hall TV Studio
- c. Webinar Wednesday – “Meeting Their Needs: Identifying Your Role in Supporting and Supervising Your Unique Team” – Dec. 17
- d. Cougar Cupboard Winter Clothing Drive Through Dec. 19
- e. No Hangtag Needed after 12/31/25
- f. East St. Louis LRC Food Drive

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Will discuss the Poll Results at our January meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The recent Holiday Reception on the Edwardsville campus received several complaints. Many attendees complained about running out of food early, the lackluster treats, and the overall dull or disheveled appearance of the remaining food and drinks.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance