

**UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING**  
**MUC Magnolia Room**  
**Teams Meeting ID 264 689 323 990 01**  
**February 11, 2026 – 9:00 am**  
**Approved Minutes**

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:05 am on Thursday, February 11, 2026, by President Steven Green.

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

**Absent:** Doug James (Past President), Benedict Kaminski (CSNP Constituency Rep)

**Guests:** Christina Daniels, Chris Jackson, Barbara Kane, Jessica McCawley, Anthony Meyer, Misty Newman, Robert Newman, Teresa Shipton, Brandon Stookey, Patricia Take, Patricia Werner, Connie Wyvell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Meeting minutes from January 8, 2026 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 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.

**REPORTS:**

**President Steven Green** – We held the Board of Trustees meeting last week. It focused on retention numbers, with both Carbondale and SIUE reporting increases. Student athlete performance and graduation rates were discussed, with both schools sharing their success rates. The climate for student athletes, particularly in Division I, was also discussed. The Dental School and the expensive HVAC replacement passed Board approval. Extra funds from a local bill or state government will help address the expenses. Dr. Ramsey received the Lifetime Achievement Award. We interviewed candidates for the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, despite the snow disrupting the schedule. The focus is now on addressing issues with the administration, including the Chancellor’s staff and other Vice Chancellors.

**President-Elect Sarah Kirkpatrick** – Dr. Tandra Taylor was appointed Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educational Pathways and Community Engagement. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Programming position search failed.

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** – See Sarah’s report above.

**Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff** – Committee work has completed. We had a top two come to campus.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs** – Five candidates were brought to campus; interviews were wrapped at the end of January.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources** – Doug had to step off the search for a while due to FMLA, so Stephanie Stookey from HR is subbing in. She said the search remains on schedule. The committee is meeting to review the first batch of candidates presented by the search firm.

**Dean of the School of Engineering** – Were given a timeline from the Provost’s Office: they want to have finalist candidates on campus by the end of April. We are using an external search firm.

**Dean of Students** – The committee has been formed, and we hope to have the position posted next week. We have our whole schedule for the whole month of March, so we are on a firm timeline.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Update on Staff Senate Poll** – The Staff Senate poll is on hold due to the SIU System Viewpoints campus climate survey. Constituency reps urge constituents to take an anonymous survey, with the only non-anonymous part being a subsequent drawing. Staff Senate may conduct a survey towards the summer, as they anticipate having results before then. We might do ours shortly after those results come out.

**Potential Guests for Upcoming Meetings** – Steven requested Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration Joe Lataille to attend a future Staff Senate meeting, specifically the May 2026 meeting. Staff Senate also suggested Associate Vice Chancellor for East St. Louis Educational Programming Dr. Tandra Taylor (while we are on the East St. Louis campus next month), new Facilities Management Director Bill Cross, Safety & Emergency Management Director Bobby Elzie, ACCESS Director Dominic Dorsey, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Kevin Wathen for consideration as potential guests.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**First 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 first read of the amendment changes. A second read and official vote will be taken at next month’s Staff Senate meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:**

**Call to Action to Complete the Campus Climate Survey** – Staff Senate encourages all employees to fill out the anonymous campus climate survey, sent by the SIU System President on February 2, 2026. The campus climate survey is an opportunity for individuals to provide feedback, including answering questions about their experiences and intentions. While the survey results may be presented in aggregate, it is encouraged to provide detailed responses, especially in the open-ended sections.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Public Relations** – The PR committee met on January 21st with a good turnout and discussed the quarterly update. The Social Security webinar will be held on March 17th from 11:30 to 1:00, and assistance is needed with setting up the Teams webinar and related tasks.

**Scholarship** – The scholarship committee reviewed 11 qualified applicants for the Staff Senate Scholarship. For the collective bargaining scholarship, none of the applicants completed the verification process, so the committee will reach out to them for verification. The goal is to review all applicants and recommend recipients to the Staff Senate by March.

**Fundraising** – Texas Roadhouse is considering two fundraising options: a dine-to-donate program and a gift card fundraiser. While these options may not raise a significant amount of money, more information will be available in the next meeting.

**Policy Review** – There is no update on policy review as it is currently handled by the interim director.

**Staff Development & Well-Being** – Working on setting up drug take-back dates. State Representative Kevin Schmidt will provide legislative updates and tour the new SIUE Health Sciences Building. The event is open to SUAA members, SIUE employees, retirees, and guests, on March 4, 2026, at 11:45am.

**Diversity Initiatives** – The new Council for Belonging and Equity will meet this week to set a February meeting date and is still accepting issues or concerns. They will also present the Illinois Know Your Rights presentation on February 19.

**Elections & Operations** – A second representative for the East St. Louis campus is interested, but they cannot be voted in until the April meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. Cafecito & Chocolate Wednesday – Today 11am – Lovejoy Library – Faculty
- b. Black Theatre Workshop Production – Friday and Saturday Feb. 13 and 14 7pm – SIUE Metcalf Theater
- c. “Illinois Know Your Rights” Thursday – February 19 1:30pm – Science East: SE 1220
- d. Documentary Screening and Discussion “I Bear Witness” – February 21 1 – 3pm – WHYHED ESTL – Learning Resource Center Building D
- e. BFSA Ebony & Ivory Scholarship Dayla – Saturday February 28, 12pm – SIUE Legacy Room
- f. Request for Announcements from Membership / Public

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Steven announced that Public Comment will be five minutes long.

The ALESTLE article about the AFSCME union filing a cease and desist against SIUE upper administration for unfair labor practices was briefly discussed. The union is concerned about the reclassification of OSS positions to non-union roles without corresponding changes in pay, benefits, or job responsibilities. The administration's lack of transparency and communication regarding these changes is fueling rumors and causing distress among affected employees.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance