

UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room
Teams Meeting ID 247 556 119 904 57
April 2, 2026 – 9:00 am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:05 am on Thursday, April 2, 2026, by President Steven Green.

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

Absent: Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Josie Palitzsch

Guests: Jay Sullivan, Phyleccia Cole, Mindy Dilley, Kristen Durnan, Xanthe Emerick, Chris Jackson, Ora Lockett, Christine Mannhard, Jessica McCawley, Misty Newman, Robert Newman, Jeanette Parmenter, Khasia Perry, Thomas Rosner, Alexis Sager, Jay Sanders, Teresa Shipton, Kristie Signorello, Brandon Stookey, Jacqueline Straube, Koming Tu, Jennifer Wagner, 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 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 March 5, 2026 were approved as written.

REPORTS:

President Steven Green – Reached out to the VCFA office and was told that the Video Surveillance Committee does not have any annual reports, which is not in keeping with their operating papers.

Secretary Evan Lewis – We had our Social Security webinar on March 17. It went very well. Special thanks to Angie for her help. We had about 46 attendees, and the slides are available on our Staff Senate website.

Civil Service Negotiated & Prevailing Constituency Representative Benedict Kaminski – ITS has reached a tentative agreement with administration. Regarding the charges of unfair labor practices, it's going to trial at the end of April.

Administrative Staff Represented Constituency Representative Rachel Garrett – The Professional Staff Association introduced their leadership and membership team and announced that contract negotiations will begin soon. A survey was sent out to gather input on needs and priorities for the new contract.

There were no other executive reports.

Vice Chancellor for Antiracism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – No update.

Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management – The committee is utilizing an external recruiting firm, WittKieffer, which is beginning an active recruiting cycle. The expected timeline for interviews is April through June, with virtual interviews planned for this month and possibly on-campus interviews in May and June. Applications will be reviewed in batches.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration – Interviews for the position are complete, and a meeting to discuss candidates is scheduled for later today. Two on-campus interviews were conducted, following a Teams interview round.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources – Interviews for the position are complete. The search committee is optimistic about the direction of the search.

Dean of the School of Engineering – The School of Engineering search is ongoing. Candidate materials will be received on April 8, first-round interviews will be conducted on April 20 and 21, and on-campus interviews will be held the week of April 27.

Dean of Students – The search for the position is complete, with excellent candidates interviewed. The process included Team interviews and on-campus presentations, following an invite-only process.

NEW CANDIDATE:

There is a vacancy on Staff Senate representing the East St. Louis campus, and we have one person interested in filling the CSNP/ASRP position. Jay Sullivan, Building Futures Counselor for the SIUE Building Futures program, introduced himself and expressed his interest in serving on the Staff Senate. His application was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proper Announcement of Belleville Senator Seat – The amendment to the Chancellor was approved, updating the bylaws and creating an open seat for the Belleville campus. Applications are now being accepted for this position.

Call to Administrative Staff Non-Represented for Constituency Representative – We have an open Constituency Representative position for Administrative Staff, Non-Represented, since Bethany has unfortunately left the University. We will try to backfill that role.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – Besides the Social Security webinar (thanks again to everyone who attended!), we met on March 11.

Scholarship – Two scholarship recipients have been offered awards, with one acceptance received. The scholarship committee will follow up on the collective bargaining agreement fund and make a recommendation.

Fundraising – Our committee will be meeting soon to discuss fundraising strategy and options.

Policy Review – Steven has marked the committee as having a vacancy in the Chair position. The remaining members will meet soon to discuss how to move forward.

Staff Development & Well-Being – No update.

Diversity Initiatives – A brief message was sent to the group about a potential candidate for the DI Chair position. The group will meet to nominate the candidate before formally announcing the new Chair.

Elections & Operations – Just a reminder about the open Belleville seat and the open Administrative Staff Non-Represented for Constituency Representative spot.

ACTION ITEMS:

Need for a Mechanic at Transportation Services – The university’s lack of a mechanic causes significant issues, including delayed repairs, increased costs, and wasted man-hours. The transportation department struggles with a single employee managing vehicle paperwork, leading to inefficiencies and safety hazards. To improve the vehicle maintenance system, the administration should consider hiring a mechanic, possibly through a cost analysis and educational approach. Data on past spending and vehicle conditions should be gathered to identify areas of waste. Establishing a contract with a single automotive maintenance company could streamline services and reduce costs.

CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Going forward, rather than read announcements from the E Today, Steven will ask those in attendance if they have any announcements. Here are the ones from today’s meeting.

- a. Student Government President Jenna Nestor has been re-elected to another term. Student Trustee Moayad Abuzaneh was also re-elected for another year.
- b. BFAA Ebony & Ivory Scholarship Dayla will be April 26, from 3 pm – 6 pm, in the MUC Legacy Room
- c. Employee Appreciation Day is planned on the three main campuses the following dates:
 - a. **Alton – Friday, April 24, 11 am – 1 pm**, Building 281 Gym
 - b. **East St. Louis – Friday, April 24, 2 pm – 4:30 pm**, Building D Room 1007
 - c. **Edwardsville – Thursday, April 30, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm**, MUC Meridian Ballroom

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Milcic, former Chair of the Policy Review Committee, highlighted the committee’s collaborative efforts with former HR directors to review and improve campus policies. He emphasized the importance of shared governance and the committee’s role in facilitating policy discussions.

The current by-invitation-only interview process is problematic as it limits participation and transparency. This approach can lead to perceptions of bias and hinder a smooth transition for new hires. While some positions may benefit from expert input, there should be more opportunities for broader staff involvement in the search process.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance