UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room
Teams Meeting ID 296 695 730 161 934
August 6, 2026 – 9:00 am
Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:03 am on Thursday, August 6, 2026, by President Sarah Kirkpatrick.

Present: Sarah Kirkpatrick (President), Evan Lowis (President-Elect), Evan Lowis (Secretary), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Maria Ferrari, TiJauna Ingram, Cheryl Jordan, Shane Kessinger, Amy Mitwally, Lisa Mosley, Josie Palitzsch, Dusty Rhodes, Thomas Rosner, Jill Smucker, Jessica Take, Angie White
Absent: Steven Green (Past President), Jory Chadwick (Treasurer), Amanda Russell, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex-officio)
Guests: Johnny Evans

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 June 4, 2026 were approved with change to add Thomas Rosner as senator and present for the meeting.

Special Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2026 were approved with change to add Thomas Rosner as senator and present for the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER:
Johnny Evans – SUCCS Civil Service Employee Advisory Board
URL: https://www.sucss.illinois.gov/
Review of SUCCS website. The results of the CS Employee survey were compiled and shared with the Merit Board and now published on SUCCS for all to review. It is not clear if Chancellor Minor received the survey results. The Merit Board is comprised of 1 member either elected or appointed of the Board of Trustees from each university. The purpose of the Merit Board is to ensure CS policies and practices are followed and protected.

REPORTS:
President Sarah Kirkpatrick – Attended the BOT meeting in Springfield. The Strategic Plan was discussed. Enrollment for fall is up 3%, but they did not provide enrollment numbers. Enrollment numbers will be compiled approx. 10 days into fall semester.

Past President Steven Green – not present. Moving daughter into college.
President-Elect Evan Lowis – Retreat was productive. Great to meet with university partners and learn more about fellow senators. Academic Advisors – email sent on 7/28 stating the re-org & move to Science East starting on 8/10. Three Academic Advisor Directors were removed and reassigned elsewhere.

Secretary Lisa Mosley – Sending out 35 padfolios to employees who reached 1 year anniversary for July & August.

There were no other executive reports.

Vice Chancellor for Antiracism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Search is paused.
Director of University Events – 6 candidates conducted Teams interviews, 3 on campus interviews with Jessica Harris just finished yesterday. No further update.
Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management – Interviewing finalists; continuing to review applicants on a rolling basis, so no decisions made yet.
Dean of the School of Engineering – Search is completed; Dr Liang Cheng, PhD is new Dean and starts on Aug. 19th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Policy Review Committee – Chair needed. Jay Sullivan and Shane Kessinger are interested. Possible co-chair.
Transportation - Finalizing expenses from FOIA request in relation to outsourcing work vs. hiring mechanics on campus.

NEW CANDIDATES:

COMMITTEE UPDATES:
Public Relations – No update.
Scholarship – No update
Fundraising – No update
Policy Review – No update
Staff Development & Well-Being – Chair needed.
Diversity Initiatives – Met and learned Dr. Rubi Quinones is Chair of new Council of Belonging & Diversity.
Elections & Operations – Thank you for serving on Staff Senate. We have 3 open positions.

CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Going forward, rather than read announcements from the E Today, Sarah will ask those in attendance if they have any announcements. Here are the ones from today's meeting.

a. Student move in begins Aug. 19th.
b. New Student Convocation – Aug 21st
c. Fall semester begins Aug 24th

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
Follow-up on why names haven't been added to the Builders of University Plaza.

Follow-up on data on using a third-party vendor for Transportation Services instead of hiring a mechanic.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Revisit costs for employee parking. Possible pricing based on salary sliding scale similar to employee benefits. Parking hang tags increase 6% each year. Employees struggle to get 2% raises.

There is a concern regarding student workers in Parking Services. They will have access to License Plate Reader data. Student workers are supposed to work in Lot B and Rendleman lot only.

New Leadership Training sessions are being offered in October.

Should we send a letter to Academic Advising to show our support. Sarah will draft a letter and share with SS.

Guest Speaker for September meeting is Jenna Nestor – Student Body President

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by Lisa Mosley, University Governance Secretary