UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING
Alton: Building 273, Alumni Conference Rm
Teams Meeting ID 211 395 477 432 86
October 1, 2026 – 9:00 am
Approved Minutes

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:06 am on Thursday, October 1, 2026, by President Sarah Kirkpatrick.

Present: Sarah Kirkpatrick (President), Evan Lowis (President-Elect), Steven Green (Past President), Lisa Mosley (Secretary), Linda Eilerman (CSNP Constituency Rep), Rachel Garrett (ASR Constituency Rep), Christy McDougal (CSOR Constituency Rep), Steven Ward (ASNR Constituency Rep), TiJauna Ingram, Shane Kessinger, Amy Mitwally, Darren "Dusty" Rhodes, Thomas Rosner, Amanda Russell, Jill Smucker, Jay Sullivan, Michael Tadlock-Jackson (ex officio), Jessica Take, Angie White
Absent: Jory Chadwick (Treasurer), Maria Ferrari, Cheryl Jordan, Craig Loyet, Josie Palitzsch
Guests: Saulius Drukteinis, Nicole Franklin, Keith Becherer, Chris Jackson, Barbara Kane, Amy Knapp, Joe Lataille, Ora Lockett, Carrigan Murphy, Misty Newman, Robert Newman, Lynn Noe, Amanda Duval Norwood, Jeanette Parmenter, Teresa Shipton, Kevin Slivka, Brandon Stookey, Pollyann Walters

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 September 3, 2026 were approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKERS:
School of Dental Medicine Dean Dr. Saulius Drukteinis welcomed attendees to the Alton campus and updated them on facility expansions: an advanced care clinic, orthodontics and endodontics residencies, and a periodontics program with Alton Memorial Hospital. A flood caused an eight-month closure; HVAC upgrades require staggered shutdowns. $1.1 million will renovate the Edwardsville Clinic (possibly 2027–2028), where a pediatric residency is planned. With 30,000 patient visits and 56 annual DMD graduates, residency growth—two residents per specialty yearly across FQHCs and community sites—is prioritized over expanding pre-doctoral enrollment due to space and faculty limits. Graduate medical education funding supports advanced training, while pre-doctoral training depends on state appropriations.

Nicole Franklin, Director of Communications in University Marketing and Communications (MarCom), addressed Staff Senate concerns on SIUE's updated brand guidelines. MarCom oversees branding and a seven-day artwork review; Canva templates cut costs. Updates are incremental; grant rules belong to finance; personal items are exempt, but current materials must adopt the new identity. Outside vendors must comply; website administration centralizes via Keith Harris and Hive. Design allows context-based

variation; artwork review is optional, with a revised guide planned. Old logos are discouraged. Concerns about delayed fonts and Zyflow flaws will be addressed with Phil's team and Hive proofing. Fines lack a mechanism; Franklin suggests administrative oversight—possibly Vice Chancellors—and urges complete submissions.

REPORTS:

President Sarah Kirkpatrick – Attended BOT meeting on Alton campus. Regarding enrollment, retention rose to 77%; the chancellor urged early intervention and text opt-ins. UPBC restructure review is expected by November. October 6–7 offers parking amnesty. MarCom webinars are available.

Past President Steven Green – Also attended BOT meeting on Alton campus. At our September UPBC meeting, we discussed the UPBC/UQC operating papers. A proposed amendment allows affinity groups, including BFSA, two seats; support was stated. Union bargaining language may expand participation.

President-Elect Evan Lowis – I've joined the Staff Advisory Committee; two spots are open, so I'll serve with Sarah this year if acceptable. The president must participate, which is why Sarah is included.

There were no other executive reports.

Vice Chancellor for Antiracism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Search is paused.

Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management – The VCEM search reopens today or tomorrow, with applications closing November 6 and a committee meeting November 9. The link will be shared in Staff Senate chat; virtual interviews are planned mid-November, on-campus early December, and a decision before winter break.

Director of Graduate Recruitment and Partnerships – Position posted until October 4.

Associate Provost for Student Success and Inclusive Excellence – Search committee still being formed; Cheryl Jordan will represent Staff Senate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Open Senate Seats:
    i. Civil Service Negotiated and Prevailing (1)
    ii. Administrative Staff Represented (1)
    iii. Alton Campus (1)

NEW BUSINESS:

a. AI Guiding Principles – Feedback collected from Teams and other channels is welcomed via chat or email. Faculty choice on AI use is praised, and AI should never be forced; adding this reasoning is suggested.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Public Relations – No update.

Scholarship – Scholarship committee received submissions for fall 2027 and spring 2028 awards, allowing two periods; Foundation funds were requested. New policy requires SARF completion for reviewers; handbook updates will go to the exec board. Next review is summer 2027. A blurb for Jane Smith will be drafted for promotion.

Fundraising – Jory has paperwork for a Narwhals fundraiser with the foundation in early March and wants to pair it with Salt and Smoke, but reserving a date is premature.

Policy Review – Shane and Jay are coordinating a time for the first Policy Review meeting. Discussions continue amid scheduling delays.

Staff Development & Well-Being – No update.
Diversity Initiatives – TiJauna emailed the Council for Belonging and Equity chair multiple times, including September 28, without response. She informed the committee they will proceed with diversity initiatives alone.
Elections & Operations – Outreach to each committee occurred. Apologies are offered for any omissions, with a request for notification. The aim is to retain those contacts.

CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. October 6-7-Student Government and Parking Services Amnesty Day
b. October 14-16-Leadership Workshops
c. October 15-MARCOM Branding Guidelines Webinar (recording available on their website for the September 16 session)
d. November 2-Spring Registration begins for students
e. November 5-Next Staff Senate Meeting (Edwardsville)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

a. November Guest Speaker: Bill Cross, Director of Facilities Management
b. December Guest Speaker: Amanda Duval Norwood, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources
c. Changes to UPBC

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Joe Lataille confirmed that the mechanic positions have been approved through SPA and are expected to be posted for recruitment. The supporting services building is being cleared for a mechanics shop.

There was an idea for next year's Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day to have the employee gift be a shirt with the new logo, since many staff cannot afford to buy updated apparel. Joe Lataille agreed to relay that idea to HR.

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, University Governance