

University Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Location: Meadowlark Room, Overman Student Center, Pittsburg State University

Time: 1:30 PM

I. Call to Order

- a. Co-President Eva Sager called the meeting to order at 1:33P M.

II. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

- a. The Senate reviewed the sign-in sheet and confirmed that 13 members were present. The Senate discussed concerns about quorum, but as the attendance represented more than 50% Senators, quorum was met per Senate bylaws.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. The Senate approved the previous minutes by unanimous consent.

IV. Shared Governance Report

a. Faculty Senate

- i. No member present.

b. Student Government

- i. No member present; Co-President Eva Sager gave the report.
- ii. Student government members will be traveling to Topeka on February 13th for Higher Education Day. They and other students from Regents institutions will speak with legislators. Co-President Sager expects 25 or fewer students to attend.
- iii. The student fee review process will begin soon. Students will have the opportunity to fill out paperwork to become involved in the process.
- iv. GoPittFest is scheduled for the second week of April, which will cause the Big Event to fall on April 11. Registration is not yet open but will open soon.

c. University Leadership: Emily McElwain

- i. No representative present; University Leadership is at KBOR and will have similar conflicts for the next three Staff Senate meetings.

V. Human Resources Report: Dr. Lori Scott Dreiling

a. General Report

- i. W2s are available now electronically. Employees who haven't yet opted in to electronic W2s will receive their W2s by mail, and those W2s will be postmarked on January 30, 2026.

b. Orientation Report: attached

- i. Dr. Dreiling brought the death of KCOB faculty member Dr. Anil Lal to the attention of the Senate. Senators expressed their condolences and their concern for the family in this difficult time.
- ii. There were multiple promotions this cycle, despite a relatively small number of changes overall. Several football coaches were promoted to assume additional responsibilities following staff departures.

c. Employee Initiative Teams (EIT)

- i. Generally, all EITs have meetings scheduled for CY2026, though no meetings have yet occurred this year.
- ii. Kudos/Recognition

- 1. Service awards and employee awards are expected to be conferred during GoPittFest, though this hasn't been confirmed by the committee.

2. 138 people will be recognized, partially due to the recent change to start recognizing employees at five years of service rather than ten.
- iii. Professional Development
 1. HR distributed a flyer about LinkedIn Learning at the meeting (see attached). HR strongly encourages all staff members to utilize LinkedIn Learning for valuable content for professional development. Additional users on the platform will also help HR build a compelling data-driven case for the renewal of Pittstate's contract with LinkedIn Learning, which will expire within the year.
- iv. Onboarding/Offboarding
 1. No report.
- v. Employee Wellness
 1. No report.
- vi. Performance Management
 1. The Performance Management document will change to be aligned with the newly-announced Access Pittstate strategic plan. The content of these changes has yet to be determined due to the recency of the announcement of Access Pittstate.

VI. Cabinet Update

- a. Presidents' Report
 - i. Regent Universities Meeting (minutes attached to agenda provided in meeting)
 1. The next meeting will not be until February.
 2. Pittstate has not received minutes for the November or December meetings.
 - ii. PSU Leadership Meeting (notes attached to agenda provided in meeting)
 1. There were no printed minutes available in the meeting, but Co-President Sager reviewed their contents with the Senate, and the minutes will be attached to the minutes posted on the website.
 2. Pittstate Leadership discussed the Spring 2026 Opening Meeting and emphasized the importance of open communication.
 3. Pittstate Leadership will host a series of "Lunch and Learns", which will be meetings where stakeholders can discuss issues with leadership over lunch. The Lunch and Learns will not be panel discussions. Only dessert will be provided.
 4. University Leadership is working to create policies on policy and on the creation of committees. This is to promote transparency in University policy and to prevent committees from being formed without a defined and consistent process.
 5. ITS staff will now identify themselves when visiting other departments to address security concerns. ITS will likely wear PSU IDs as name badges. It was the understanding of Senate leadership that these changes will either be very near-term or immediate.
 6. The Staff Senate nametag project will continue, and Staff Senate leadership will next get cost estimates from Printing and Design.
 7. The Heckert-Wells Hall renovation project is slated to start next year. The University is currently soliciting donations for the project.
 8. Pittstate Leadership is not ready to discuss the request for additional compensation for Staff Senate leadership.
 9. Dr. Newsom specifically requests that people approach him for clarification if they have any questions or concerns about announcements he makes in meetings. He strongly values open communication.

- b. Treasurer's Report: Libby Graham
 - i. The Senate has approximately \$2100 in funds available between the two Senate accounts.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Professional Development Day: Eva Sager/HR
 - i. The 2026 Professional Development Day is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2026.
 - ii. Additional information is available in the Pittstate Daily email. Staff members wishing to present at PD Day, or who are simply interested in PD Day covering certain topics, should fill out the form linked in the Daily.
 - iii. Academic Advising staff will be unable to attend PD Day due to their involvement in enrollment season during that time.
- b. Satisfaction Survey: Michael Woodrum
 - i. Michael Woodrum was not present, so Jeannice Parker gave the report.
 - ii. The Satisfaction Survey Committee will meet on Thursday, January 15.
- c. Parking Committee: Stephanie Willis & Heather Busch
 - i. The Parking Committee will not meet until later in the Spring.
- d. Board of Governors: Donna Jacobs
 - i. No report.
- e. Display Case Subcommittee: Sarah Moon
 - i. A draft layout for the display was presented to the Senate (see attached).
 - ii. The Subcommittee solicited quotes for new plaques, and the results were expensive, as high as \$400.
 - iii. The Subcommittee will reach out to the Physical Plant, Printing and Design, and woodworking students to see if more inexpensive options are available.
 - iv. Senate leadership expressed a strong preference for the Senate to acquire a new plaque for the display case (as opposed to updating verbiage on the extant plaque). Leadership believed this is the best option to preserve the history of the former USS and UPS Senates, which only recently merged into the current Staff Senate.

VIII. Old Business:

- a. Need one more senator
- b. Buttons and/or ribbons for University nametags
 - i. Discussed during the Presidents' report.
- c. Election Committee
 - i. Three volunteers are needed from Senate membership to serve on the Election Committee.
 - ii. If senators volunteer by the next Staff Senate meeting in February 2026, the Senate will vote to appoint the Election Committee membership at that meeting.

IX. New Business and Questions

- a. Open to the floor
 - i. Pittstate will host an AI Symposium on March 26, 2026, from 2:00 PM–5:00 PM in the Bicknell Center for the Arts.
 - ii. Per Dr. Dreiling, the Kansas State Legislature has placed a strong focus on eliminating DEI programs and initiatives, which our institution has made every effort to comply with. Pittstate has eliminated all references to DEI that they identified on the website, and HR is accepting change requests if any missed references are identified. Several divisions have been modified or restructured to comply with the new law.
 - iii. The “PS... It’s Not the Same Without U” event will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 in the Overman Student Center. This event aims to connect students, student organizations, academic departments, offices, and other campus groups. Academic

departments will present information on minors and certificates, but recruitment for majors will not occur.

- b. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 1:30 PM in the Meadowlark Room, Overman Student Center

X. Adjournment

- a. Co-President Michelle Hensley adjourned the meeting at 2:04 PM.

University Staff Senate Meeting Attendance

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Location: Meadowlark Room, Overman Student Center, Pittsburg State University

Time: 1:30 PM

I. Present

- a. Eva Sager, Co-President
- b. Michelle Hensley, Co-President
- a. Wylie DeGruson
- b. Tracey Eagon
- c. Libby Graham, Treasurer
- d. Jordan Harding
- e. Isaac Lewis
- f. Sarah Moon
- g. Jeannice Parker
- h. Cody Sanders
- i. Tom Smith, Secretary
- j. Stephanie Willis
- k. Carol Young
- l. Dr. Lori Scott Dreiling, HR Representative
- m. Hannah Randall, HR Representative
- n. Kelley Manley, Past UPS President

II. Excused

- a. Anthony Crespino
- b. Donna Jacobs
- c. Emily McElwain, University Leadership Representative
- d. Shawna Witherspoon
- e. Elizabeth Middendorf
- f. Heather Busch
- g. Amber Hames
- h. Laura Wray
- i. Brenda Sigler
- j. Maria Thompson

III. Absent

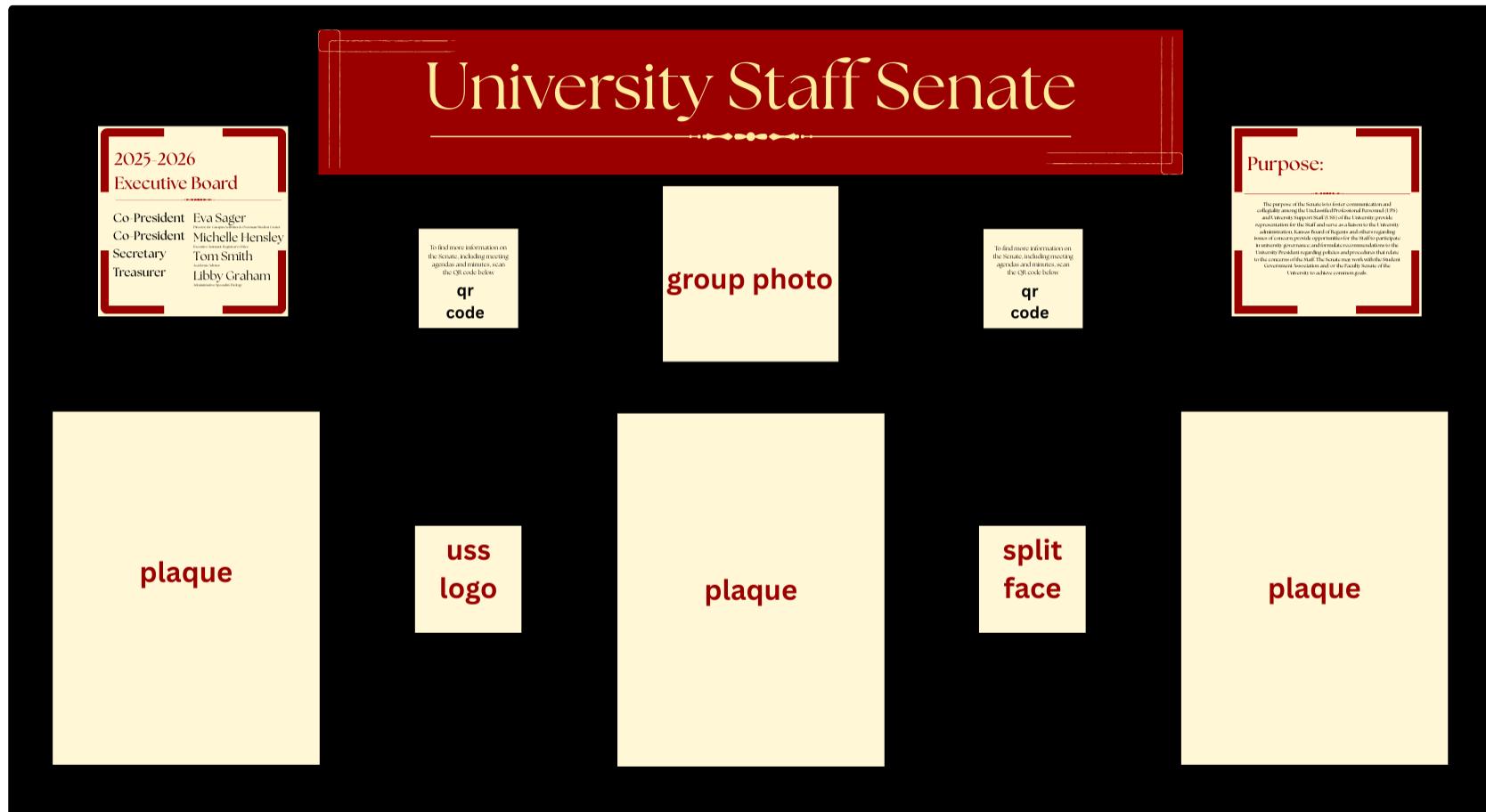
- a. Melissa Prier
- b. Michael Woodrum
- c. Sean Hall, Past USS President

Orientation Report
As of: January 14, 2026

Type	Last	First	Area	Date	Comments
Promotion	Gilbert	James	Intercollegiate Athletics	12/21/2025	
Promotion	Rieken	Chance	Intercollegiate Athletics	12/21/2025	
Promotion	Jacobs	Donna	Advancement Services	12/21/2025	
Promotion	O'Connor	Kindra	Advancement Services	12/21/2025	
Retire from Phased	Dobrowolski	Tadeusz	Math and Physics	12/31/2025	
Resignation	Huffman	Rion (Chauncey)	School of Technology and Workforce Learning	1/2/2026	
Deceased	Lal	Anil	Kelce Undergraduate School of Business	12/23/2025	
Promotion	Hermansson	Casie	English and Modern Languages	1/4/2026	
New Appointment	Lorino	Catherine	History, Philosophy and Social Sciences	1/4/2026	
New Appointment	Mallojula	Prashanthi	Math and Physics	1/4/2026	
New Appointment	Butcher	Jerek	Intercollegiate Athletics	1/4/2026	
Promotion	McFarlane	Ryan	Information Technology Services	1/4/2026	Transfer from Academic Advising
Resignation	Rexwinkle	Sarah	Student Center	1/6/2026	
Rehire	Forsythe	Jacob	Crossland College of Technology	1/4/2026	
Rehire	Hansen	Maxwell	Campus Recreation	1/4/2026	
Promotion	Wahl	Braydon	Housing Maintenance	1/4/2026	Went to FY BE position
Resignation	Kinsey	Morgan	Academic Advising	1/16/2026	
Transfer	Edwin	Woellhof	School of Construction	1/4/2026	
Moving to 20%	Jones	Glenda	Teaching and Leadership	1/4/2026	Went to NON BE position

Display Case Layout Proposal

As of: January 14, 2026



1. Communication Strategy Updates

- Establishing two opening meetings per year — before fall and spring.
- Introducing four town halls annually (two each semester).
- Adding new Luncheon Chats (Lunch & Learns) — informal sessions with rotating campus locations.
- Plans to provide weekly or biweekly emails and maintain a monthly message.
- Abby working on a website-based feedback mechanism.
- Goal: increase transparency, accessibility, and two-way communication.

2. Event & Meeting Plans

- Leadership team will present updates on enrollment, university affairs, financials, and building projects at Friday's meeting.
- Revised strategic plan (Access Pitt) to be introduced.
- Faculty not fully back yet; Friday's opening remarks will be livestreamed and recorded.

3. Committee Structure & Policy Updates

- Need for clearer policies on committee formation and definitions.
- Jamie Cook & Cindy Johnson developed a Committee Policy — currently under review.
- Discussion of a new Policy on Policies (process for proposing, reviewing, and approving policy changes).

4. Campus Operations Topics

Identification & Security

- Concerns about lack of identification for ITS staff.
- Suggestions: department-specific IDs or badges, supplemental ID for staff entering private spaces.

Staff Senate Identification

- Interest in ribbons, stickers, or name-tag additions showing "Senator" status.

5. Legislative & Budget Concerns

- Expectation of state budget cuts, potentially 5% or more.
- Higher education likely targeted due to flexible budget category.
- Research institutions predicted to take biggest hits.

6. Facilities & Projects

- Future fundraising priority: \$15M renovation of Heckert.
- Planetarium event & donor engagement planned.

7. Extra Compensation Topics

- Extra compensation processes under review.

8. Miscellaneous Notes

- President emphasizes open communication.

PITT STATE

LinkedIn

Learning

Pitt State Employee Link:

<https://lnkd.in/g4678Qye>

LinkedIn Learning is on-demand and is
YOUR opportunity to train, grow, develop,
and learn new skills

Pittsburg State University is
proud to offer their
employees the opportunity
to use LinkedIn Learning,
with over 25,000 free
courses worldwide.

BENEFITS:

- Expanding your knowledge & skills
- Learn something completely new
- Wide range of technical, business,
software, and creative topics
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1

Activate your License

Use the QR code, activation link, or [Learner Log in Flow](#) to activate. You will also have the option to connect a personal LinkedIn profile.



Pittsburg State Activation Link:
<https://lnkd.in/g4678Qye>

2

Familiarize Yourself

Watch this [How to Use LinkedIn Learning](#) course for an overview of the tool, including short videos on the most common questions.

3

Find Relevant Content

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[Technology Topics](#)

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[Professional Certificates](#)

[Certification Prep](#)

4

Rock Your Profile

Watch this [Rock Your LinkedIn Profile](#) course to find out how to communicate your professional band using your profile. Learn how to tailor each section to highlight your unique experience.

5

Share your Learning

After completing a course or learning path, you can [add certificates to your profile](#) to showcase your learning and new skills with your LinkedIn network.



2025

W-2 Release Information

Please be aware that the State of Kansas does not provide any ability to directly upload W-2 information to tax preparation software.

Electronic 2025 W-2 forms will be ready for employees to access through Employee Self-Service mid-January 2026.

Take action now to consent to receive your 2025 W-2 electronically!

For employees who do not consent to receiving electronic W-2 statements, the forms will be mailed and postmarked by January 30, 2026.

To consent, sign on to Employee Self-Service:

1. Select the My System Profile Tile
 - Review your business and home email addresses, and update if necessary.



- Return to ESS Home Screen

2. Select the W-2: Consent, Reissue Forms Tile

- Select box "I consent to receive W-2 or W-2c forms" after reviewing the consent details, click Submit.

