

University Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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

Time: 1:30 PM

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Michelle Hensley called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.
- II. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum
 - a. Attendance was taken via attendance sheet. Quorum was confirmed by the Secretary and approved by the Senate by unanimous consent.
- III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - a. The previous meeting minutes were approved.
 - i. Motion: Michael Woodrum.
 - ii. Second: Carol Young.
 - iii. Approved by unanimous consent.
- IV. Guest Speaker
 - a. None.
- V. Shared Governance Report
 - a. Faculty Senate
 - i. No representative present.
 - b. Student Government: Eva Sager for SGA.
 - i. Darrel McLeod was reported as the new student body president. Items including privilege fees were approved. Corey Humble will be going to KBOR to discuss tuition and related topics.
 - ii. Student leadership training will be held Sunday, May 17, 2026, and Monday, May 18, 2026, between SGA and other student groups.
 - iii. Student Government is working on fundraising plans for Big Event.
 - iv. Student Government is working on an initiative for hammocks on the Oval; however, significant progress may not occur until Spring 2027. The initiative will likely require posts for hammocks and most likely a mulch base.
 - c. University Leadership: Mary Leritz for Emily McElwain
 - i. University leadership is in the process of budget formulation. Due to legislative funding reductions, some expenditures will need to be prioritized. Employee compensation is being prioritized, and the budget shortfall is expected to be offset through general fund expenditure reallocations and reductions.
 - ii. President Dr. Newsom's focus next year will include community relations (USDs, community colleges, etc.), which may result in additional commitments affecting availability on campus.
- VI. Human Resources Report: Dr. Lori Scott Dreiling, Director.
 - a. General Report
 - i. Congratulations were extended to Dr. Dreiling on her retirement announcement, effective January 15, 2027.
 - 1. The University plans to conduct an external search and to have a new director onboarded for Fall 2026.
 - 2. In addition to her commitments in Human Resources, Dr. Dreiling will teach in Kelce in Fall 2026 and fully retire after that term.
 - 3. Dr. Dreiling will office half-time in the New Kelce building and half-time in the HR Office in Russ Hall in Fall 2026.
 - ii. It was noted Pitt State has had the highest number of retirements in a fiscal year in 35 years, including 15+ faculty retirements.
 - b. Orientation Report: see May minutes

c. Employee Initiative Teams (EIT)

i. Kudos/Recognition

1. Staff/faculty service awards were held April 8 with a good turnout.
2. Free employee t-shirts are available in the HR office prior to broader distribution.

ii. Professional Development

1. LinkedIn Learning utilization remains low; higher usage is needed to justify another three-year contract.
2. Tarryn Brenner can attend staff meetings for various departments to provide training on LinkedIn Learning.

iii. Onboarding/Offboarding

1. Exit and Stay interviews are now live; the Stay interview will be sent after 90 days as a positive check-in on how things are going.
 - a. Exit interviews are completed by form when an employee departs PSU, with an option to complete an in-person interview.
 - b. Exit interviews do not occur when employees switch roles (e.g., transfer or promotion).
 - c. Stay interviews do not occur when employees switch roles (e.g., transfer or promotion).
2. Until trends are established, Dr. Dreiling is the only person viewing the results of the interviews.
3. An offboarding checklist has not been developed yet.

iv. Employee Wellness

1. Hydrate Like a Gorilla was held during the week prior to May 13, 2026, on the second floor of Russ Hall, as it was too cold on the Oval.
2. Senators were encouraged to watch for information about A Day at the Rec in June.

v. Performance Management

1. Senators were advised to watch for emails regarding performance management.
2. The performance report format will be updated from the version active under Dr. Schipp. The new version should reflect Dr. Newsom's Access Pitt State strategic plan.
 - a. HR is working to make the updated Access Pitt State version function in GUS Cloud; this is not complete yet. Performance reviews may be completed on paper again this year. The long-term plan is to transition fully to GUS Cloud.
3. GUS Classic Search and Appoint is being phased out and transitioned to GUS Cloud. The new system is expected to be easier, though the initial implementation may be clunky.

VII. Cabinet Update

a. Presidents' Report

- i. Regents Universities Meeting: see May minutes
- ii. PSU Leadership Meeting: see May minutes

b. Treasurer's Report: Libby Graham, Treasurer: see May minutes

- i. The budget remains on track, with the potential for a small surplus.
- ii. Planned/identified expenditures have been completed as needed.
- iii. Accounts will not roll over.
- iv. A budget proposal will be ready for CFO Doug Ball by the end of the week and is expected to be similar in scope to the proposal from AY25.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Satisfaction Survey: Michael Woodrum

- i. The Satisfaction Survey results were presented to the President in early May; see Officers' Reports.

b. Parking Committee: Stephanie Willis & Heather Busch

- i. The committee reviewed 15 appeals; most appeals were denied.

- c. Board of Governors: Donna Jacobs
 - i. Didn't meet.
- d. Display Case Subcommittee: Sarah Moon
 - i. Nameplates for the recognition plaque were ordered and will need to be added to the plaque; once completed, the project will be ready.
 - ii. Libby Graham is working on locating where the nameplates were delivered to.
- e. Elections Committee: Tom Smith
 - i. It was reported that President-Elect Tracey Eagon retired unexpectedly.
 - ii. Incoming President-Elect Tom Smith will assume the presidency in AY26.
 - iii. The Senate will seek a new president-elect. Nominations will be collected electronically over the summer.
 - iv. The Senate informally decided to vote at the first meeting of AY26 after nominations have been gathered.
 - v. The Senate discussed that USS has the right of first refusal for the position; however, if USS does not field a candidate, a bylaw change (temporary or permanent) may be required.

IX. Old Business:

- a. Ribbons for University name badges
 - i. Ribbons have been ordered and received. Returning Senators may pick up one ribbon.
- b. End-of-year banquet
 - i. Venue change: The Pitt, Wednesday, June 3, 2026, from 11:30AM–1:00PM.

X. New Business and Questions

- a. Open to the floor
 - i. Reappointment letters (from Hannah Randall, Human Resources) will be sent soon; recipients do not need to sign.
 - ii. Senators were reminded to complete Conflict of Interest forms.
 - 1. A list of individuals will be provided to Cabinet next week.
- b. Next meeting: Staff Senate Banquet on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, from 11:30AM–1:00PM at The Pitt.
 - i. Calendar invite will be sent to supervisors.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Michelle Hensley adjourned the meeting at 2:08 PM.