University Staff Senate Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

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

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tom Smith at 1:30 PM.

II. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Tom Smith motioned to confirm quorum.

Confirmed by unanimous consent.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Tom Smith motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes.

Approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Guest Speakers

Speaker: Kennedy Cooper (Tilford Group)

The Tilford Group hosts speakers and promotes multicultural initiatives on campus.

Upcoming Events:

- Food Insecurities Initiative (Upcoming)
- Sexual Assault Prevention Event (Next semester)

One meeting held per semester and is open to everyone; an interest sign-up sheet was provided.

Upcoming Meetings: November 5 from 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM and December 1 from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM in Kansas Room 1.

V. Shared Governance Report

1. Faculty Senate

Discussed the Shared Governance survey regarding schedule proposals (submission deadline was Monday).

Currently assessing extracted data from the surveys and plan to share results at the next meeting.

2. Student Government – Eva Sager

Homecoming: Planning is underway; Fall into Service initiative is tracking participation throughout the month.

Trunk or Treat: Scheduled for October 28 at the Bicknell Center with approximately 24 participating groups.

Voting Initiatives: Early voting begins Monday, October 19 at the Bicknell Center.

Leadership Trip: The leadership team returned from a national conference in Washington, D.C. on Sunday; debrief pending.

3. University Leadership – Mary Leritz

Policy Library: Cabinet encourages faculty and staff to review the university's policy library.

Holiday Party: Scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 from 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM at the Bicknell Center.

Friction Reports: Cabinet reviews these monthly and routes them to appropriate VPs or Directors. Noted that some reports pertain to state-level guidelines rather than campus policy.

Media Relations: Guidance coming soon from Abby. All media requests should be directed to Abby Fern or Andra Stefanoni.

Community College Outreach: Dr. Newsom is meeting with community colleges to build relationships and boost recruitment.

Legislative Activity: Must be routed through the President's Office, remain nonpartisan, and receive approval prior to action.

VI. Human Resources Report

1. General Report – Hannah Randall

Open Enrollment: October is open enrollment for health insurance. Appointments can be scheduled online or directly with HR.

New Staff: Introduced Rachel Becker, new HR Specialist.

Orientation: See attached report.

Employee Initiative Teams (EIT): Next meeting scheduled for November.

Kudos / Recognition: No report.

Professional Development: No report.

Onboarding / Offboarding: No report.

Employee Wellness: No report.

VII. Cabinet Update & Officer Reports

1. President's Report

KBOR Preparation: Meeting with combined counsels in preparation for the KBOR breakfast to discuss shared governance across institutions.

Facilities Contract: Transition to camps lawn maintenance contract is going well with minor hiccups resolved. Existing funds reallocated to cover the contract.

Staff Meal Plans: 18 sign-ups to date. Working on expanding plans to all campus dining partners beyond Gibson Dining Hall.

2. Treasurer's Report – Carol Young

Balance: $1,500.00 (No change).

VIII. Committee Reports

Board of Governors (Donna Jacobs): Met September 29. Student organizations submitted their semester schedules. Overman Student Center HVAC timeline and cost were discussed. Repairs will extend into the spring semester. Course schedule proposal was discussed.

Elections Committee (Cody Sanders): No report.

Bylaws Committee (Sarah Moon): Has not met.

Fundraising Committee (Libby Graham): Met and established the committee charter. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to reach out to Libby.

Retention Committee (Tom Smith): Has not met.

Outreach Committee (Mitchell Moon): Working with Damian Smithhisler and meeting next Friday. Focusing on increasing facilities participation and improving communication channels between Senate and trades/facilities staff.

Ombudsman Committee (Ad Hoc): Has not met.

IX. Old Business

Committee Charters: Clarified that standing university committees do not replace Senate committee charters. Tom Smith requested committee chairs to draft charters to track participation, establish clear goals, and avoid overlap.

KBOR Breakfast Topics: Staff Senate Presidents meeting scheduled for November in Topeka. Senators encouraged to send system-level concerns to Tom, including questions regarding budget cut prevention, DEI expectations, and program exemptions. Agenda to be shared prior to the November meeting.

X. New Business and Announcements

Equal Opportunity & Nondiscrimination Committee: Standing university committee seeking a Staff Senate representative for a 3-year term (meets quarterly). Interested individuals should email Tom Smith by end-of-day.

Senate Vacancies: Open senator seats are available; interested individuals should contact Tom Smith.

Upcoming Campus Events:

- *Homecoming Parade:* Saturday, October 17
- *Crossroads Pizza & Ice Cream:* Tuesday, October 20 at 11:45 AM
- *Gorilla Nation Showdown:* Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 PM (Inaugural student vs. faculty/staff game show)
- *Makers Market:* Saturday, November 14 in the OSC Ballrooms
- *Winter Glow:* November (OSC)

XI. Adjournment

Tom Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:21 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 1:30 PM in the Meadowlark Room, Overman Student Center.

Transfer	0781317	Singletary	Morgan	Admission	8/16/2026
Promotion	0749802	Hawk	Christopher	Dean of Students	8/30/2026
New Appointment	0802814	Moore	Emma	Intercollegiate Athletics	8/30/2026
Promotion	0246936	Smithhisler	Damian	Facility Operations	8/30/2026
New Appointment	0779256	O'Brien	Tari	Advancement Services	8/30/2026
New Appointment	0306611	Brodbeck	Daniel	Facility Operations	8/30/2026
Transfer	0325015	Dalton	Jaime	Economic and Community Engagement	8/30/2026
Promotion	0391693	Macias	Daniel	Gorilla Graphics	8/30/2026
New Appointment	0239902	Waugh	Josephine	General Counsel and Institutional Compliance	9/13/2026
New Appointment	0871028	Emerson	Victoria	College of Education	9/13/2026
Retirement	0134853	Morton	Vernon	School of Technology and Workforce Learning	9/25/2026
New Appointment	0871384	Behnke	Kandee	Teaching and Leadership	9/27/2026
Promotion	0574163	Keltner	Greg	Facility Operations	9/27/2026
New Appointment	0871203	Schones	Micahel	Facility Operations	9/27/2026

University Staff Senate Meeting Attendance

October 14, 2026

☑	Heather Busch	**Faculty Senate**: Kristen Livingston	☑
☑	Wylie DeGruson	**Student Government Rep**:	
☑	Libby Graham	**Human Resources Rep**: Hannah Randall	☑
☑	Amber Hames	Rachel Becker	☑
☑	Jordan Harding	**University Leadership Rep**: Mary Leritz	☑
	Isaac Lewis	Sean Hall – Past President	
☑	Elizabeth Middendorf		
Excused	Mitchell Moon	**Guests**	
☑	Jeannice Parker	Frida Herrera	
Excused	Maria Thompson	Gabriela Alvarez	
☑	Laura Wray	Will Dowty	
☑	Brenda Sigler	Kennedy Cooper	
Excused	Bailey Talkington		
☑	Michael Woodrum		
☑	Donna Jacobs		
☑	Tom Smith - President		
Excused	Cody Sanders – President-Elect		
☑	Carol Young – Treasurer		
☑	Sarah Moon – Secretary		
☑	Eva Sager – Past President		
☑	Michelle Hensley – Past President		