

University Staff Senate Meeting Attendance

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026

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

Time: 1:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Senate meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM by President Tom Smith

II. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Quorum was visually confirmed

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

There were no previous meeting minutes to approve. All archived minutes remain available to view on the University Staff webpage.

New officers introduced:

- President: Tom Smith
- President-Elect: Cody Sanders
- Treasurer: Carol Young
- Secretary: Sarah Moon
- Past Presidents: Eva Sager and Michelle Hensley

IV. Guest Speaker

No guest speaker.

Lori Scott Dreiling will speak at the September meeting

V. Shared Governance Report

Faculty Senate: No representative present

Student Government: Has not met yet; no representative appointed

University Leadership: Emily McElwain

Former-Kelce building's new name is College High Hall. Doors remain open with a deadline of August 14th to retrieve items before IT access is secured.

A new travel workflow aligning with state standards is currently being tested and worked through by the Business Office. Bear with them through the adjustment period.

Opening Meeting is scheduled for 9 AM on August 13 with coffee and snacks beginning at 8:15 AM

Town Halls: Thursday, September 24 & Tuesday, November 10

Lunch Chats: Wednesday, October 7 & Thursday, December 3

Locations to be announced at a later date

Sodexo was awarded the food vendor contract and will send general information to campus soon. No major operation changes are expected at this time, though some OSC names may change. Users must create a new login with Sodexo. Confirmation emails for orders placed through Alladin/Elior should be sent to 1903catering.usa@sodexo.com

Facilities will be updating safety signage across campus for standardization

VI. Human Resources Report

Lori noted a very busy time of year with approximately 75,000 emails sent to HR; minor delays in non-emergency emails should be expected.

General Report: 70 new hires occurred between 2025's opening meeting and now. HR has met with colleges regarding benefits and open enrollment.

Orientation Report: 23 employees have retired since May 2026. See attached report.

Employee Initiatives Teams (EIT):

Kudos/Recognition: Recently held ice cream at the Oval

Professional Development: We are entering our final year of LinkedIn Learning; staff are encouraged to utilize it.

Onboarding/Offboarding: New employee bags are being updated, checklists are evolving, and exit/stay interviews are being conducted.

Employee Wellness: Hosted Day at the Rec and a Medicare pop-up in July. Over 50 people attended the Medicare event. Upcoming events include the Benefits and Wellness Fair on Monday, October 5 and a Medicare/Retirement pop up on Tuesday, October 6. HR is also planning HealthQuest sessions to earn points. Staff are encouraged to continue earning their points throughout the year.

Performance Management: Evaluation season ended July 31; currently at 65% completion rate.

VII. Cabinet Report

Presidents Report

Met with KBOR officers two weeks ago to share priorities across state institutions.

New KBOR president, Gabriel, will include USS Presidents. KBOR budget outcome remains pending; goal to meet in Topeka once per month.

Monthly meetings with Dr. Newsom will address staff feedback submitted via a new query form, which will be linked in each Senate reminder email.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Young

Current balance is \$1,500 in the General Use account; no funds have been spent to date.

VIII. Committee Reports

A comprehensive committee roster has been created to track vacancies

1. Satisfaction Survey: Michael Woodrum

Committee has been shuttered as work has been completed, and results have been shared with Dr. Newsom

2. Parking Committee: Heather Busch

Jordan Harding volunteered to present formal report at the end of the quarter.

3. Board of Governors: Donna Jacobs

No report

4. Display Case Subcommittee: Sarah Moon

Work is complete; committee disbanded

5. Elections Committee: Cody Sanders

Committee meets in the Spring to prepare ballots; half of the Senate seats will be open next year. Open seats are voted on by campus; officers elected by Senate.

Libby Graham volunteered to join committee with 1-2 more members needed.

6. Bylaws Committee: Sarah Moon

Newly formed committee for the review of bylaws each even-numbered year.

Revisions require 2/3 Senate vote. Committee members: Tom Smith, Isaac Lewis, and Cody Sanders.

IX. Old Business

Handbook Review: The USS Handbook has not been updated since 2014. Updates will require coordination with the contracted union. General Counsel updates the Unclassified Handbook annually in August.

Ombudsman Initiative: Discussed establishing an ombudsman process for staff uncomfortable approaching direct supervisors. Item will be brought up at the next meeting with the University President.

X. New Business

Senate discussed initiation fiscal and non-fiscal strategies to support university goals, boost staff retention, and break organizational silos.

3 committees formed:

- Outreach Committee: Chair: Mitchell Moon. Committee focuses on reaching underrepresented departments, encouraging Senate attendance/membership, and hosting meetings in different locations. Members: Carol Young, Eva Sager, Sarah Moon
- Fundraising Committee: Chair: Libby Graham. Exploring fundraising initiatives, such as student textbook sponsorships. Members: Jeannice Parker, Sarah Moon, Tom Smith, Isaac Lewis.
- Retention Committee: Chair: Tom Smith. Focusing on workplace satisfaction and retention strategies. Members: Cody Sanders, Jeannice Parker, Mitchell Moon, Isaac Lewis.

Sustainability Committee Reactivation: The campus-wide sustainability committee has not met since last fall; reactivation tabled until next meeting.

XI. New Business/Good of the Order:

Career Development: Student job openings are now posted on Gorillas4Hire; avoid directing students to Handshake.

UPD: Parking permits are available and should be picked up as soon as possible.

Student event access now requires check-in through Corq app. No physical tickets will be given.

KBOR is scheduled for an April campus visit.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 1:30 PM in the Meadowlark Room, OSC

University Staff Senate Meeting Attendance

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

Time: 1:30 PM

☒	Heather Busch	Faculty Senate: None present	
☒	Wylie DeGruson	Student Government Rep: None present	
☒	Libby Graham	Human Resources Rep: Lori Scott Dreiling	
☒	Amber Hames	Hannah Randall	
☒	Jordan Harding	University Leadership Rep: Emily McElwain	
☒	Isaac Lewis	Sean Hall – Past President	☒
	Elizabeth Middendorf		
☒	Mitchell Moon	Guests:	
☒	Jeannice Parker	Molly Baumgardner	
Excused	Maria Thompson	Will Dowty	
Excused	Laura Wray		
	Brenda Sigler		
☒	Bailey Talkington		
☒	Michael Woodrum		
☒	Tom Smith - President		
☒	Cody Sanders – President-Elect		
☒	Carol Young – Treasurer		
☒	Sarah Moon – Secretary		
☒	Eva Sager – Past President		
☒	Michelle Hensley – Past President		

Action	First Name	Last Name	Department	Action Date	Notes
Retire from Phased	Jewett	Janice	Health Human Performance and Recreation	5/8/26	
Retire from Phased	Dalecki	Linden	Kelce Undergraduate School of Business	5/8/26	
New Appointment	Engle	Jacob	Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology	4/26/26	
Promotion	Vargas	Remi	Intercollegiate Athletics	4/26/26	
New Appointment	Whitely	Stefanie	President's Office	4/26/26	
Retirement	Eagon	Tracey	School of Technology and Workforce Learning	5/4/26	
Promotion	Shortt	Juliana	Housing & Residence Life	5/10/26	
Promotion	White	Shelby	Communication	5/10/26	
Promotion	George	Emily	Teaching and Leadership	5/10/26	
New Appointment	Barnes	Nathan	Information Technology Services	5/10/26	
Retirement	Opela	Sammye	Teaching and Leadership	6/6/26	
New Appointment	Whitlow	Adeline	Housing & Residence Life	5/24/26	
New Appointment	Krug	Craig	Facility Operations	5/24/26	
Retirement	Torbett	Ernest "EJ"	Facility Operations	5/29/26	
Rehire	Herrera Escobedo	Frida	Academic Advising	5/24/26	
Retirement	Burke	Dennis	Center for READing	6/5/26	
Retirement	Pearson	Timothy	Information Technology Services	6/5/26	
Retirement	Downing	Susan	Health, Human Performance, Recreation	6/5/26	
Retirement	Dawsey	Timothy	National Institute for Materials Advancement	6/6/26	
Return to Faculty	Marchant	Susan	Music	6/7/26	
Transfer from Assoc Dean to Chair	Clemensen	Jason	Teaching & Leadership	6/7/26	
Promotion	Chybowski	Andrew	Music	6/7/26	
New Appointment	Hodge	Johnna	Facility Operations	6/7/26	
Promotion	Schultz	Beau	Intercollegiate Athletics	6/7/26	
Transfer to 9-month Faculty	Murray	Gregory	School of Automotive and Engineering Technology	6/7/26	
Transfer to 9-month Faculty	Belcher	Gregory	School of Technology and Workforce Learning	6/7/26	
Promotion	Smith	Tom (Thomas)	Academic Advising	6/7/26	
Promotion	Wilber	Ashlee	Academic Advising	6/7/26	
New Appointment	Hayden	Ian	Library	6/21/26	
New Appointment	Lomison	Allison	Housing and Residence Life	6/21/26	
New Appointment	Pierce	Tim	Intercollegiate Athletics	6/21/26	
New Appointment	Ridgeway	Trevor	Student Affairs and Enrollment Management	6/21/26	
New Appointment	Wagner	Riley	Intercollegiate Athletics	6/21/26	
Retirement	Anderson	Timothy	Facility Operations	7/2/26	
Retirement	Little	Kimberly	Facility Operations	6/26/26	
Retirement	Pentola	Tonya	Facility Operations	6/26/26	
New Appointment	Howey	James	Kelce College of Business	6/21/26	
New Appointment	Lawellin	Heidi	Facility Operations	6/21/26	
Promotion	Briscoe	Jesse	Student Success Center	6/21/26	
New Appointment	Brooker	Nancy	Biology	7/5/26	
Transfer to Faculty	Siam	Khamis	Chemistry	7/5/26	
Rehire (from student to FT)	Alvarez Caceres	Lourdes "Gabriela"	International Programs and Services	7/5/26	
New Appointment	Hill	Jalen	Intercollegiate Athletics	7/5/26	
Transfer	Shoemaker	Abigail	Intercollegiate Athletics	7/5/26	
New Appointment	Kegler	Terra	Nursing	7/5/26	
Rehire	Ashmore	Angela	Advancement Services	7/5/26	
Retire from Phased	Warner	Clayton	Psychology and Counseling	7/31/26	
Retirement	Cox	Barth	Communication	7/31/26	
Retirement	Martin	Dawn	Teaching & Leadership	7/31/26	
Retirement	Martin	Lori	English & Modern Languages	7/31/26	
Retirement	Montague	Matthew	Music	7/31/26	
Retirement	Tackett	Katherine	Teaching & Leadership	7/31/26	
Retirement	Tseng	Li-Lin	Art	7/31/26	
New Appointment	Stindt	Stephanie	Education, College of	7/19/26	
New Appointment	Walker	Jackson	Intercollegiate Athletics	7/19/26	
New Appointment	Miller	Juliana	Police and Public Safety	7/19/26	
Promotion	Wahl	Braydon	Facility Operations	7/19/26	
Transfer to Faculty	Wallace	Trenton	Facility Operations	7/19/26	
Retire from Phased	Jewett	Janice	Health, Human Performance, Recreation	7/31/26	
Retirement	Wood	Jamie	Psychology and Counseling	7/31/26	
Retirement	Paasch	Michael	Police and Public Safety	7/31/26	
Promotion	Harries	Kimberly	Health, Human Performance, Recreation	7/19/26	
Retirement	Woodward	Larry (Lawrence)	Kelce Undergraduate School of Business	7/31/26	
Retire from Phased	Dalecki	Linden	Kelce Undergraduate School of Business	7/31/26	
Retirement	Ward	Jason	School of Technology and Workforce Learning	7/31/26	