University Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Location: Meadowlark Room, Overman Student Center, Pittsburg State University
Time: 1:30 PM

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM by President Tom Smith

II. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum
Quorum was established and confirmed by unanimous consent

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
The minutes from August's meeting were approved as written by unanimous consent

IV. Guest Speaker: Lori Scott Dreiling

Human Resources Updates: *Report Attached*

Open Enrollment: October 1 through October 31. There will be changed to out-of-pocket costs and deductibles, alongside standard annual rate adjustments.
HR will be hosting informational sessions in different buildings throughout campus, as well as sessions on how to get Health Quest points. One-on-one or department-specific sessions are available upon request.
Health and Wellness Fair: Scheduled for October 5 and will feature flu shots, bloodwork, and health insurance representatives.
Employee T-Shirts: Final opportunity to get a free shirt from Russ Hall, 204.
See attached document for more health insurance updates or visit HR's webpage

V. Shared Governance Report

a) Faculty Senate
Kristen Livingston serves as the new Faculty Senate President
Annual focus areas for Faculty Senate include reviewing subcommittees to align with Faculty Senate Constitution and introducing an AI initiative aligned with PSU's strategic plan

b) Student Government
Vice President Alice Carnahan provided the updates
Elections and Appointments: Reese Sutulovich is serving as Director of Student and Legislative Affairs
SGA has conducted 22 interviews over the past week to fill 16 open Student Senate seats
Initiatives and Upcoming Events: SGA is currently working to install menstrual products dispensers in campus restrooms
Constitution Day event will be held at Axe Library on September 17
Voter registration week is September 21-25 and will feature daily events to drive student involvement and political engagement

c) University Leadership: Emily McElwain

The Access PITT State capital campaign has been launched, raising $6 million of the $100 million goal since the start of the fiscal year

Athletics Operations: Jon Bartlow & Anthony Crespino are gathering feedback regarding issues in the student section of the opening football game and will be meeting with students prior to upcoming games

IT & Facilities: IT processes over 19,000 tickets last year with a 96% completion rate

Top Rail Solutions has opened as a new business in Block 22

The KBI facility is set to open in early 2027.

Student Affairs & Services: Chris Hawk has been appointed as the new Director of Case Management/Student Conduct.

HR Director Search: Search remains ongoing; updates will follow as available.

Friction Reports: Critical operational needs are routed immediately to the appropriate departments. Non-critical feedback is handled in teams and brought to weekly leadership meetings. Anonymous reporting is supported.

VI. Human Resources Report

a) General Report

Updates delivered regarding open enrollment – *updated attached*

b) Orientation Report

Report attached

c) Employee Initiative Teams (EIT)

i. Kudos/Recognition

Scheduling food trucks for the fall semester (send suggestions to Tarynn). Exploring ideas for pop-up events.

ii. Professional Development

Staff PD dates TBD (targeting summer). Open to presenter and topic suggestions.

iii. Onboarding/Offboarding

Developing a new offboarding checklist to minimize liability and friction. EIT will reach out to individual departments to review specific item signoffs. Stay interviews are progressing well and providing valuable feedback.

iv. Employee Wellness

Organizing a walk challenge through Health Quest. Community Health Center (CHC) consent forms will be distributed for upcoming health screenings. Reminded staff to retain copies of insurance cards.

VII. Cabinet Update

Presidents' Report

Work continues on finalizing a staff meal plan. Feedback is being reviewed for the three HR dire ctor finalists. An outside consultant is currently updating campus emergency management plans. *Minutes attached.*

Regents Universities Meeting: KBOR meets next week; campus visit set for April. Welcomed a new KBOR CEO.

KBOR Breakfast Discussion: Staff Senate was invited to set the agenda and discuss staff concerns in December. Floor opened for questions/concerns for KBOR. Michael Woodrum emphasized helping KBOR understand the critical roles and scope of staff work.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Young

Current balance of $1,500 in the general account with zero expenditure to date. Coordinating with Mary for a detailed report on the foundation account.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Board of Governors: Donna Jacobs (have not met)
b. Elections Committee: Cody Sanders (have not met)
c. Bylaws Committee: Sarah Moon (have not met)
d. Fundraising Committee: Libby Graham

Met last week and established a $5,000 annual fundraising goal. Funds will support book scholarships, staff development/conferences, Student Employee of the Year gifts, payroll deductions, raffles, and events (e.g., Apple Day dunk tank, tailgating).

Kathleen is setting up donation accounts for outside donors. Proposed voluntary payroll deductions of $1–$2 per paycheck. Committees will draft formal goals and charges for Senate review to streamline agenda management.

e. Retention Committee: Tom Smith (Have not met)
f. Outreach Committee: Mitchell Moon

Held first meeting last week. Scheduling a meeting with Damien to engage Facilities staff. Focus on reaching underrepresented campus groups (e.g., administrative staff, outdoor meetups at Hartman picnic tables).

Proposed hosting Senate meetings in different campus buildings and allowing staff to join committees without committing to full senator roles. Issued a challenge to senators to bring one non-office guest to an upcoming meeting.

Vote for the committee budget tabled until next month.

IX. Old Business:

a. Ombudsman Initiative – ad hoc committee

Drafting formal language to present goals to leadership. Volunteers from the floor include Sarah, Eva, Maria, and Michael. Other interested staff are encouraged to email Sarah Moon.

b. Open to the floor

X. New Business and Questions

a. Policy Reviews: Intellectual Property, Conflict of Interest, and Research Misconduct policies are open for senator review. Comments and suggestions are due by September 17.
b. Open to the floor: None
c. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2026, in the Meadowlark Room, Overman Student Center

XI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Pitt State HR Updates
Winter/Fall 2026

State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) changes for 2027

Plan A

- Increase the Deductible from $1,000/$2,000 to $1,250/$2,500 ($250/$500)
- Increase the OOP max from $5,250/$10,500 to $5,500/$11,000 ($250/$500)
- Eliminate the Special Case Pharmacy Tier - 40% Coinsurance to a max of $100 per 30-day supply

Plan C

- Increase the Single only Deductible from $2,750 to $2,900 ($150)
- Increase the member plus coverage tiers Deductibles: from $3,400/$5,500 to $3,500 /$5,700
- Increase the OOP Max from $4,500/$9,000 to $4,750/$9,500 ($250/$500)

Plan N

- Increase the Single only Deductible from $2,750 to $2,900 ($150)
- Increase the member plus coverage tiers Deductibles: from $3,400/$5,500 to $3,500 /$5,700
- Increase the OOP Max from $6,650/$13,300 to $6,900/$13,800 ($250/$500)

Plan J

- Increase the OOP Max from $7,350/$14,700 to $7,600/$15,200

Medical Rates

Employer

- Increase is 16%

Employee

- No increase in Aetna
- BCBSKS increases is 10%

Dental rates

- Employer increases 3.3% (Employee only coverage remains at zero premium.)
- Employee increases 3.3%

Dates to Remember

SEHP Open Enrollment – October 1-31 through the Membership Administration Portal (MAP). Enter through the Pitt State HR website. Click on MAP Portal. HR ON TOUR – we will be officing in a variety of buildings on campus that month to assist employees with open enrollment. New this year – we will be hosting two sessions to literally sit with you and show you how easy it is to get HealthQuest points! Just BYOL (bring your own laptop!)

Annual Benefits and Wellness Fair – Monday, October 5 from 1-3pm in Overman Ballrooms
HealthQuest health screenings – Monday, October 5 from 8-12 in Overman Ballrooms (CHC/SEK)
Individual retirement meetings with TIAA, VOYA, KPERS 457/Empower, and KPERS – Tuesday, October 5 and Wednesday, October 6 in Overman. Watch Pitt State Daily for sign up information.

Other thoughts

General HR questions – reach out to hr@pittstate.edu.
September 7 – Labor Day holiday
No information yet on holiday hours/days off for Thanksgiving and Christmas
Last chance for employee t-shirt distribution! Stop by 204 Russ Hall if you did not get one in the spring.

Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting with Dr. Newsom and Staff Senate Leadership
Thursday, September 3, 2026

- Discuss University updates
    - Staff meal plan update, including pricing and rollover decisions
        - *Options for 25 or 50 meals (50 will cost less per meal)*
        - *University not adding cost to Sodexo pricing*
        - *Semesterly rollover allowed during Fiscal Year, but not from year to year*
        - *Unlimited swipes per visit (i.e., you're allowed to use swipes for guests accompanying you)*
        - *University Leadership has fast-tracked the implementation of this initiative*
        - *Announcement will be made in the upcoming week or so*
    - HR search update
        - *Three strong candidates interviewed*
        - *Feedback from open forums will be read and considered*
        - *Announcement to come as quickly as feasible after Labor Day*
    - KBI project update
        - *On track for a January 2027 opening date, with additional uses to phase in after that*
    - Police substation planning update
        - *The University is studying its safety plans and will consider response times with new UPD location as part of that*
        - *Parking Pass location for pickup TBA*
    - Capital campaign update
        - *Officially launched in most recent Alumni Magazine*
        - *Website up to date; $5.8M announced so far*
        - *Figures posted publicly are conservative*
    - Shared governance policy update
        - *Senate* ad hoc *committee recommendations on ombudsman initiative will be considered*
- Feedback form discussion
    - Staff concerns regarding anonymity
        - *Forms are processed by Abby Fern and are strictly anonymous unless the submitter shares identifying information explicitly*
        - *The University is interested in content only, not the origin of the report*

    - Friction form
        - *A wide variety of information has been shared*
        - *The friction form is not meant to replace existing channels for interpersonal issues*
        - *The University does not want to discourage use of the friction form*
- College of Education dean search
    - *Dr. Watson has been officially announced as the Interim Dean, and University Leadership is excited for his commitment to Pittsburg State*
    - *Dr. Watson will be tasked with evaluating how the College of Education can best serve the needs of school systems in our region*
    - *Dr. Watson is anticipated to serve only as an interim*
    - *The search process for a permanent Dean will be announced once we are further into Dr. Watson's tenure*
- Questions for Staff Senate leadership
    - *None*

New Appointment	Bonnel	Austin	Intercollegiate Athletics	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Lawson-Holman	Paytience	Intercollegiate Athletics	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Becker	Brian	History, Philosophy and Social Sciences	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Buchanan	Reid	Mathematics and Physics	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Clevenger	Todd	History, Philosophy and Social Sciences	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Hutchison	Kristy	Nursing	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Martin	John	Nursing	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Overman	Kristine	Music	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Timbs	Allison	History, Philosophy and Social Sciences	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Quiroz	Koith	School of Construction	8/2/2026
New Appointment	King Colegrove	Jody	School of Construction	8/2/2026
Rehire	Harris	Eric	Kelce Undergraduate School of Business	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Arora	Aditi	Psychology and Counseling	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Li	Jing	Psychology and Counseling	8/2/2026
New Appointment	Garza	Sheri	Facility Operations	8/16/2026
New Appointment	Klinkon	Jody	Housing Maintenance	8/16/2026
New Appointment	Mitchell-Carrier	Mark	Facility Operations	8/16/2026
New Appointment	Rodriguez	Patrick	Facility Operations	8/16/2026
Retirement	Senecaut	Timothy	Facility Operations	8/21/2026
New Appointment	Cloyd	Jeramiah	Bicknell Family Center for the Arts	8/16/2026
New Appointment	Becker	Rachel	Human Resources	8/16/2026
Rehire	Croft	Rylee	First Year Programs	8/16/2026
Promotion	Moon	Mitchell	Crossland College of Technology	8/16/2026