



STAFF COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026 | 8:15 a.m. – Noon | Mountainlair, Rhododendron Room | Zoom

Staff Council promotes a positive work environment for all Classified Employees through effectively advocating for our peers in the University’s decision-making process.

Name	Title	Department	Present
Barner, Sylvester	Supervisor Campus Services	FO Operations	No*
Browne, Thea	Administrative Assistant Senior	University Libraries	Yes
Bucklew, Jay	Administrative Associate	Research Integrity & Compliance	Yes
Chittum, Martin	Program Assistant III	College of Creative Arts and Media	No*
Crabtree, Joan	Manager, Physical Plant II	Auxiliary/Operations	Yes
De Leon, Lian	Special Events Coordinator	CCAM Production and Facilities	Yes
Fletcher, Louise	Traffic Enforcement Officer	Parking Management	No*
George-Jones, Tara	Program Manager	Global Affairs	Yes
Joplin, Michael	Manager Physical Plant II	Auxiliary Operations	No*
Lemine, Matthew (Brett)	Trades Specialist Lead II	FO Maintenance	No*
Leshner, Ryan	PRT Electronics Specialist I	AUX Personal Rapid Transit	No*
Michael, Louise	Campus Safety Officer	University Police	No*
Moore, Valerie	Academic Lab Manager II	SOM Pathology Anatomy & Lab Med	No
Rakowski, Caty	Program Assistant II	Libraries	Yes
Lautar Rhodes, Brooke	Administrative Associate	SOM Physiology & Pharmacology	Yes
Robinson, Shirley	Administrative Assistant	Academic Affairs Admin.	Yes
Seime, Sarah	Director, HR Partners	T&C, Employee Relations	Yes
Stewart, Dianne	Administrative Associate	Engineering & Mineral Resources	Yes
Toothman, Brandy	Program Specialist	SON	Yes

*Excused

Also in Attendance:

Sean Manning, University Communications Specialist Senior, UR

Submitted By: Janelle Squires, Administrative Secretary, Staff Council Office

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Shirley Robinson, at 8:39 a.m., and a quorum was established by roll call later in the morning.

First Business

Approval of March minutes motioned by Tara. Thea seconded. All in favor and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

By Joan Crabtree, Secretary/Treasurer

Joan reported a beginning balance of \$475.95 with one expense of \$21.20 for the telephone.

That leaves an ending balance of \$454.75.

Approval of Treasurer's Report motioned by Thea. Jay seconded. All in favor and motion carried.

Chair's Report

By Shirley Robinson

Shirley reported that she attended the Faculty Senate meeting.

Next week, she will attend the event at Blaney House to officially present the Paul Martinelli Classified Staff State Recognition Award to Paul. His wife will be accepting it on his behalf, and if she cannot attend, Terry Nebel will accept it.

She asked Thea, Tara and Caty to review the awards that we have featured on our website and determine if any changes need to be made. Notably, the Mertin's Award, which we do not have much information on, so she will ask Terry Nebel who was part of initiating it.

Last night, she went to Martinsburg to attend the Distinguished Citizens Award ceremony where they awarded WVU President Emeritus E. Gordon Gee for his scouting contributions to the Boy Scouts of America. Just that evening alone, they raised \$89k.

Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) Report

By Tara George-Jones, ACCE Classified Staff Council Rep.

Tara reported that she is now on their listserv and should receive the agenda for Friday's meeting.

She submitted the updated information for WVU, including Tech and Potomac State, for the website.

During the last meeting, they had discussion with Jill Beatty, the Benefits Coordinator Liaison with PEIA, but not much information was provided.

There was a request from one of the other ACCE schools about catastrophic leave policies, so she and Ginger from Potomac State provided WVU's policy.

The HEPC rep was supposed to meet with them at the last meeting but did not. However, he met with ACCE chair Amy Pitzer so they should have an update at Friday's meeting at Concord and online.

Board of Governors (BOG) Report

By Dianne Stewart, BOG Classified Staff Council Rep.

Dianne reported that they will meet this Friday at the Alumni Center during which she will be presenting her Classified Staff report.

Committee Reports

Legislative

By Jay Bucklew, Chair

Jay reported that they met last week. They briefly talked about finalizing the brochure which he got updated and sent out to the committee on Friday.

Compensation

Thea Browne, Chair

Thea reported that they have not met. She does have plans to meet with Vice President Barge and Annette and eventually with Compensation Administration reps.

Staff Council Scholarship

Brandy Toothman, Chair

Brandy reported that they will have roughly over \$12k left to award summer scholarships. There are thirteen applicants and two have already been awarded so now that remainder is \$9,238 which will cover six scholarships.

They will meet on May 13.

Welfare

Brooke Lautar Rhodes, Chair

Brooke reported that she and Dianne signed up to staff the Hydration Station at the Mountainlair on Friday, April 24 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join them.

She and Brandy talked about some dates to make a Sunday evening dinner at the Rosenbaum Family House. She'll email the group with the proposed dates.

They also discussed volunteering at Pantry Plus in Westover sometime in July. She'll look at dates and share with the group.

She met with Shirley a few weeks ago and they talked about T-shirts for Staff Council, if there is enough money in our budget. Joan added that Mike Joplin works with a t-shirt company, so they will follow up with him.

Shirley reminded them to log their iServe volunteer hours.

STAAF Welfare Ad-hoc Committee

Shirley reported that they had thirty recipes submitted for the cookbook. They also have forwards from President Benson, the president at Tech, and they are waiting for one from the president of Potomac State.

Also, this Friday is Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day at the ballpark.

Staff Council Newsletter

By Thea Browne, Co-Editor

Thea reported that she and Martin discussed the newsletter recently. They just went over the cover story for it and thought the Paul Martinelli Award would be a good feature.

Athletic Council

By Thea Browne, Classified Staff Council Rep.

Thea reported they have not met recently but shared that the Blue and Gold game is this Saturday and doors open at 9:30.

Old Business

Thea shared that she and Sarah got an invitation to a meeting about the hotel direct bill.

Sarah added that she sent a request to get the numbers of employees who make \$45k and under to look at reduced/free parking for those folks as discussed and presented to administration.

New Business

Sarah shared that they are bringing back on-site new employee onboarding at the Mountainlair in the Mountaineer Room and will send out communication about it this summer for an October launch. They will include Staff Council information in the packet of materials for classified staff new hires.

President's Meeting

The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2026 beginning at noon via Zoom. Items for the agenda were as follows:

1. Update from Vice President Barge regarding the:
 - a. **Internal Talent Development:** We would like to launch an "internal job of the week" spotlight in eNews. By prioritizing "institutional intelligence" and implementing degree equivalency for internal candidates, we can stop functioning as a training ground for external competitors and start building long-term career paths at WVU.
 - b. **Staff Emergency Relief Fund:** we would like to propose a crowdfunding campaign for the Hearts & Hands/WVU Emergency Relief Fund to assist staff facing one-time financial crises. This community-led safety net ensures that a minor hardship, like a car repair, doesn't lead to a loss of employment for our essential staff.
 - c. **Emergency Pay Consistency:** We would also like to discuss long-term plans for declaring a "weather emergency" for weekend and evening employees, so that 1.5x pay is enacted during state-declared emergencies.
2. Given the merger of the Center for Black Culture & the LGBTQ+ Center into the Center for Community Connections and the realignment of the DEI Office, there is a concern regarding the dilution of dedicated support for those student communities. To ensure transparency, will the University commit to publishing an annual 'Student Impact Report' for this new center? Specifically, would you support an anonymous, third-party survey of the Black, LGBTQ+ and other minority student populations affected by this change, to be released next summer, as a benchmark to ensure that their specific needs are still being met in practice?

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Thea. Jay seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.