



STAFF COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2026 | 8:15 a.m. – Noon | 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	Yes
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	Yes
Crabtree, Joan	Manager, Physical Plant II	Auxiliary/Operations	No*
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	Yes
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	Yes
Moore, Valerie	Academic Lab Manager II	SOM Pathology Anatomy & Lab Med	No
Rakowski, Caty	Program Assistant II	Libraries	No*
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	No*
Stewart, Dianne	Administrative Associate	Engineering & Mineral Resources	No*
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 at 8:22 a.m. by the chair, Shirley Robinson. A quorum was determined by roll call.

First Business

Approval of May minutes was motioned by Louise M. Brandy seconded. All in favor and motion was carried.

Chair's Report

By Shirley Robinson

Shirley reported that she attended the Faculty Senate meeting.

The Order of Vandalia award ceremony was scheduled for this Friday, but it is now postponed due to the baseball game and is to be determined.

Committee Reports

Legislative

By Jay Bucklew, Chair

Jay reported they did not meet this month as there is not much activity at the legislature during this time. He will be in contact with Travis Mollohan to ask if there will be a special session.

Compensation

Thea Browne, Chair

Thea reported that they are to meet with Rebecca Meyer and Jaime Bolyard with Compensation Administration on June 29.

She encouraged everyone to read the [Financial Plan for FY 2026](#). One item in the report states that classified staff lost thirty-two positions over the last fiscal year. She is assuming most of those positions are retirements and jobs that have been upgraded to non-classified. Non-classified jobs increased by forty-eight. It appears that we are on a decent financial track. However, wage compression remains an issue.

Tara also shared the link regarding WVU's policy for [sick leave and retirement](#).

Staff Council Scholarship

By Brandy Toothman, Chair

Brandy reported they have not met recently but she did review the spreadsheet for the summer. Four applicants have been awarded and one applicant who had not yet registered for a class, but is now registered, will be awarded.

Welfare

By Brooke Lautar Rhodes, Chair

Brooke reported that they set a date to make a meal for the Rosenbaum Family House. It is scheduled for August 2, and she has sent out a save the date. Once she gets specific details, she will share them with the group.

Regarding the Staff Council T-shirts, they now have some logos that Dianne provided. They also got some quotes for pricing but are planning to seek a donor. Shirley added that she has contacted someone and will let her know.

STAAF Welfare Ad-hoc Committee

By Shirley Robinson

Shirley reported that they are finishing the cookbook and are waiting for one president to provide his forward.

As a reminder, this committee was formed to include non-classified staff in Staff Council initiatives, although they do not have a vote.

Sustainability

By Martin Chittum, Classified Staff Council Rep.

Martin reported that they have not met and he has not received notification about an upcoming meeting.

Staff Council Newsletter

By Martin Chittum, Editor and Thea Browne, Co-Editor

Thea reported they met and discussed the two articles they will feature.

One is the Paul Martinelli Classified Staff State Recognition Award.

She reached out to an HR representative to discuss Workday and the spotlight job of the week.

Blood Drive

By Michael Joplin, Coordinator

Mike reported that he met with the SGA reps and it was determined that a blood drive at the end of the school year was not a suitable time and decided it would be best to wait for fall. They are on board with a challenge, as well.

Athletic Council

By Thea Browne, Classified Staff Council Rep.

Thea reported that they have not met but one item that was discussed during their last meeting was the retirement of Pat White's number.

Old Business

Thea reported that Hidden Gems is taking a hiatus for the summer, but they do have something planned for August. They are working with the WVU Bookstore, and they are offering a discount on WVU gear as well as free coffee and food from the café. That communication will be featured in E-News the week of August 31.

Vice President Mario Barge is on board with the job of the week spotlight which will be featured on our website and in the Staff Council newsletter, as well as sending it out on our classified staff sector listservs.

New Business

Tara proposed that WVU host an ACCE meeting in the fall or spring, and/or the retreat in July 2027. This would provide significant cost savings for ACCE as we can reserve a room at the Mountainlair with technology at no cost. Shirley made the motion. Thea seconded. All in favor and motion carried.

Regarding the changing of our monthly meetings, Janelle read a letter from Vice President Mario Barge that was sent out to supervisors that outlines the duties of the Staff Council member with the times of the monthly meetings which are 8:15 a.m. until noon.

Per the bylaws, meeting time/dates are discussed and voted on in July.

Tara motioned to include this on the agenda for next month's meeting to vote on whether we change our meeting start time (to 9 a.m.) beginning in August. Jay seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Shirley reminded the group that there will not be a President's Meeting this month.

On June 10, the Executive Committee met with Vice President and General Counsel Stephanie Taylor, who provided a brief overview of the searching and hiring of the new CFO. Upon adjournment, the group will view the meeting recording.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tara. Jay seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.