



STAFF COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 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	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	No*
Lemine, Matthew (Brett)	Trades Specialist Lead II	FO Maintenance	Yes
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	No*
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	No*

*Excused

Also in Attendance:

Kimberly Locy, Program Coordinator NC, ACA Learning Advising and Student Success
 Sean Manning, University Communications Specialist Senior, UR
 Jamie Whoolery, Assistant Dean, CCAM Production and Facilities

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Shirley Robinson, at 8:30 a.m., and a quorum was established by roll call.

First Business

Approval of February minutes motioned by Jay. Caty seconded. All in favor and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

By Caty Rakowski, on behalf of Joan Crabtree, Secretary/Treasurer

Joan was unable to attend but provided the Treasurer's Report via email.

Caty reported a beginning balance of \$497.15 with one expense of \$21.20 for the telephone.

That leaves an ending balance of \$475.95.

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

Chair's Report

By Shirley Robinson

Shirley reported that she attended the Faculty Senate meeting on March 9.

She has been corresponding with someone regarding the faculty and staff Appreciation Day during the WVU Baseball game scheduled for April 18 at 4 p.m. An announcement will be featured in Enews with more details.

She met with Brooke recently, who is chairing the Welfare Committee and had a good discussion.

Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) Report

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

Tara reported that ACCE is having some technical issues and are in the process of hiring a technologist. She is waiting for last month's agenda.

Board of Governors (BOG) Report

By Dianne Stewart, BOG Classified Staff Council Rep.

Dianne reported some items from their meeting.

- The WVU Impact Award was conducted recently
 - WVU contributes \$21.6 billion
 - 149,000 jobs nationwide
 - \$1 billion in state and local taxes to the economy
- Third floor of the Evansdale Crossing is being renovated to increase student traffic
- Relocating the Purpose Center, Career Services, and adding a testing center
- The Visitor's Center will be vacating their space with one location at One Waterfront Place
- The Dean of Eberly College, the Dean of Creative Arts, and the Dean of the Law School searches are in progress
- The new Dean of the Libraries is Mark Paris
- The new Provost, Beverly Wendland, will join us on July 1

Committee Reports

Legislative

By Jay Bucklew, Chair

Jay reported they met on March 3. The recent edition of Under the Dome provided information from this legislative session.

- Granted money towards the University to offset the PEIA premium increase; unknown how the 3% salary increase will be funded and whether it will be used to offset
- The \$200 spousal surcharge for non-WVU employees will happen

Compensation

By Thea Browne, Chair

Thea reported they met recently with Sarah and Mario Barge, VP for Talent and Culture, to discuss some of the items that were brought up during the last monthly meeting.

- Wage compression for pay grades 6 through 15
- Thea suggested to eliminate the \$60 longevity pay for employees making over \$100,000/year
- Parking fees vary but are roughly around \$35/month and that is 1.4% of a \$30,000 salary but 0.3% for a \$150,000 salary
- Situations such as employees who work from home and do not have to pay for childcare as opposed to those who must work in the office and pay for childcare
- Time and a half for employees who must come into work during a state of emergency
 - Lodging for employees during a weather emergency being readily available if needed
 - Allowing a free meal for these employees
- Having an Emergency Relief Fund; we have the Hearts and Hands but that relies on donations to assist the individual

- Talent mobility – we would feature an internal job of the week or month encouraging employees to apply whether they have experience in a specific field or not

Staff Council Scholarship Committee

Thea shared she has been corresponding with the WVU Foundation folks regarding the Day of Giving that will benefit the Scholarship Program.

She will be sending out letters to all the scholarship recipients encouraging them to donate.

She plans to reach out to the Foundation next month to discuss starting a crowdfunding campaign to help supplement the scholarship in the summer or early fall.

Student Retention

Shirley let Colin know to keep us posted with anything we can assist them with. They presented their wrap-up to the group during last month's meeting.

STAAF Welfare Ad-hoc Committee

Shirley shared that President Benson has provided a foreword for the Staff Council cookbook to benefit the Staff Council Scholarship Program, along with WVU Tech President T. Ramon Stuart, and WVU Potomac State College President Jerry Wallace will be providing his.

Sustainability

By Martin Chittum

Martin did not have any new items to report.

Staff Council Newsletter

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

Martin and Thea will discuss a time to meet.

Shirley asked for an update by the first week of April.

Athletic Council

By Thea Browne, Classified Staff Council Rep.

Thea reported they met on March 6.

She cannot share a lot of information but can share that the Gold and Blue game is not being called a game but an event.

President's Meeting

The in-person meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 beginning at noon at the Mountainlair in the Bluestone Room. Items for the agenda were as follows:

1. We recently had an encouraging meeting with Vice President Barge, who expressed enthusiasm for several of our proposals. Our goal is to partner with your office and Talent & Culture to move these initiatives from the "idea" phase into institutional reality. Specifically, we have focused on revenue-neutral and donor-funded solutions to address the significant challenges facing our staff in Pay Grades 6–15.
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **Cost-of-living equity/Parking:** we would like to propose/research a sliding-scale parking fee model. By adjusting fees for high-earning employees, we can significantly reduce the monthly burden for our \$0K-\$45K earners at zero net cost to the University budget.
 - **Weather Safety & Essential Support:** Based on recent winter storms, we are seeking to formalize protocols for direct-bill with area hotels and emergency meal access for on-site staff during state-declared emergencies.
 - **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.

Our goal is to discuss how we can best support you and Talent & Culture in authorizing these initiatives to as soon as possible.

2. Shortly after you joined WVU, there was discussion around renewed campus beautification efforts. One of the projects mentioned was the water tower on Evansdale Campus behind Blaney House as it is a highly visible landmark from various locations throughout the city of Morgantown. What can you share with regards to the project, plans, implementation, and progress?
3. Do you have any initiatives in the works that we could help you with?

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Thea. Brett seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.