



STAFF COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025 | 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	Yes
De Leon, Lian	Special Events Coordinator	CCAM Production and Facilities	No*
Fletcher, Louise	Traffic Enforcement Officer	Parking Management	Yes
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	Yes
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
 Jamie Whoolery, Assistant Dean, CCAM Production and Facilities

Coffee & Conversation Guests Speakers:

- 9 a.m. Facility Operations – Charles Roberts, Associate Vice President, Facility Operations
- 10 a.m. Student Government Association – Colin Street, President
 Thomas Giggenbach, Internal Senates Liaison & Sydney Pringle, Senator-At-Large
- 11:15 a.m. Legislative Initiatives – Jason Gross, Ph.D., WV Advisory Council of Faculty Rep.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Shirley Robinson, at 8:26 a.m., and a quorum was established by roll call.

First Business

Joan and Mike did not receive the January draft minutes when they were sent out to the group via our Listserv.

Tara motioned to allow five minutes for Joan to read over the minutes. Jay seconded the motion.

Approval of January minutes motioned by Tara. Jay seconded. All in favor and motion carried.

Going forward, Janelle will post the draft minutes to Teams when they go out.

Treasurer's Report

By Joan Crabtree, Secretary/Treasurer

Joan reported a beginning balance of \$518.35 with one expense of \$21.20 for the telephone.

That leaves an ending balance of \$497.15.

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

Chair's Report

By Shirley Robinson

Shirley reported she attended the Faculty Senate meeting.

There is now a tab on our website that lists "Legislative Happenings" while we are in session. This includes a link to track bills as well as lists of the Senate and House of Delegates members, and Executive Branch members. There is a bill out regarding voting rights being reinstated to BOG faculty, staff and student reps.

She also attended the WVU Day at the Legislature. She noted it was an impressive day, seeing all of WVU, including Tech and Potomac State, working together.

During the last meeting with the president, we discussed a way of showing our appreciation to the Roads and Grounds and Facilities workers who came in to work during the two days of inclement weather. Joan, Mike and Sylvester provided Shirley with the names of the 116 individuals who came in to work. Shirley spoke with Erin Newmeyer, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, and a few other representatives, and they agreed to provide "Treats on Us" meal tickets to those individuals to thank them. Janelle also sent out personalized Thank You ecards to each person.

Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) Report

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

Tara missed Friday's meeting, so once she receives the February minutes, she'll provide an update.

There's not much to report from the January meeting – other than talks about a 3% increase in the PEIA spousal surcharge for 2027. Travis Mollohan is following that.

Tara will serve on the Benefits Committee and the Technology Committee.

Their website is behind because the secretary retired so they are working on that.

Shirley had contacted Amy Pitzer, Chair of ACCE, to inquire about their agenda items and Amy provided the following:

- ACCE training
- Agenda items included job pricing with Melissa Carroll
- Committee reports
 - Benefits
 - Student Advocacy
 - Legislative
 - Web and Communications
 - Retreat bylaws ad-hoc committee
- They had an HEPC update from Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration, Matt Turner and Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Adam Yates

Board of Governors (BOG) Report

By Dianne Stewart, BOG Classified Staff Council Rep.

Dianne shared they have a meeting later this week.

Committee Reports

Legislative

By Jay Bucklew, Chair

Jay reported that the committee met on February 3. He, along with Martin and Janelle, attended.

The only two bills as of now that have direct impact on WVU would be restoring BOG voting rights, SB 551. The other is SB 675 and that one does not restore voting rights to faculty and staff, only students.

Compensation

By Thea Browne, Chair

Thea reported they met after the January Staff Council monthly meeting and will meet later this morning.

They have a meeting scheduled at the end of the month with Mario Barge, VP for Talent and Culture, along with Sarah and the rest of his team, to talk about some of the items discussed during the January meeting.

They will also meet with the Compensation Administration reps.

Staff Council Scholarship Committee

By Brandy Toothman, Chair

Brandy reported they met on February 4 with herself, Caty and Janelle.

They discussed not meeting every month as the process is self-sustaining. Instead, they will meet in May after spring grades have posted to review the summer applications; in August to review the fall applications; and in January to review the spring applications.

Thea reached out to the WVU Foundation Day of Giving rep, and we will be using the same page as last year with an updated group picture from the holiday luncheon with President Benson.

They will be sending out a targeted email to employees who have used the scholarship funds to consider donating to the Scholarship Foundation Fund.

She met with Liz Levinson from the Foundation, and she likes the idea of us starting a crowdfunding possibly over the summer for deans and the president, or anybody, to give.

Welfare

By Brandy Toothman

Brandy reported that she, along with Dianne and Brooke met on February 4. Upon an electronic vote among the members, Brooke will be taking over the role as chair of the committee as Brandy already chairs the Scholarship Committee.

They will continue the discussion about making dinner at the Rosenbaum Family House. Brooke reached out to the gentleman that's in charge there. She also would like our family members to be involved.

They talked about volunteering at Pantry Plus or Empty Bowls. Shirley advised to reach out to the STAAF ad-hoc committee members, as well.

STAAF Welfare Ad-hoc Committee

Shirley shared that the link to submit recipes for the Staff Council cookbook is still up on the website and encouraged everyone to share a recipe.

Sustainability

By Martin Chittum

Martin reported they met with Dr. Lee on February 2.

Some items discussed:

- Earth Week, April 20-24, with events like tree planting
- They plan on having new pollinator gardens throughout the campus
- Annual Blue & Gold Sale benefitting the United Way
- Recyclables are not to be mixed with regular trash
- Solar panels project they were trying to get on the Law School building was unsuccessful; now trying to get an EBSCO Library grant to put them on the main campus Library
- SGA reps talked about having their own Offices of Stainability
- Martin shared with them about talking to President Benson about having Sustainability moved under Facilities and they were happy to hear that

Coffee & Conversation

Facility Operations

Charles “Chuck” Roberts, Associate Vice President, Facility Operations

Chuck agreed to provide an overview of the Facility Operations unit to the group and answer any questions.

He has been in this role for nearly a year. There’s been some reorganization which he can provide more information about and talk about some larger initiatives.

There are currently seven divisions within the organization and roughly 600 employees.

- Director for Administrative Support Services, Carrie Hall
 - Handle financial matters of the organization
 - Reorganization: brought over some programs in the state’s Planning that were over in Planning Design and Construction
 - ✓ Aiming for a campus master plan
 - ✓ Outside agency to look at our space use
 - Oversees their IT staff
 - Run work order system, unified for now

- Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, Sam Miller
 - Oversees Maintenance, Trades, Custodial, and Roads & Grounds personnel
 - Brought in an outside consultant to look at each one of our facilities' infrastructure and components
 - Identified \$400 million worth of backlog in deferred maintenance that is now categorized and prioritized
 - Project database to track funding availability
 - Received HEPC funding two years ago of \$46 million
 - Working on heat performance indicators over the past year
- Director of Real Estate Operations, Dusty Hays
 - Looking at all our real estate, including leased properties, to prioritize list of items to sell or get rid of
- Director of Sustainability, Traci Knabenshue
 - Receive assistance from Roads & Grounds and Facilities crew
 - Implementation of Sustainability Goals
- Executive Director of Facility Operations Design and Construction, John Thompson
 - Request for a Proposal for campus master plan
- Director of Facility Operations Personal Rapid Transit, Jeremy Evans
 - Also leads Transportation and Mail Services
 - Acquired legislative support for funding of the PRT - \$6.4 million last year to complete work this summer
 - Earmarked for another \$6.4 million next year
 - Putting out around ten proposals for new PRT system
 - PRT cars are fifty years old; they might get another ten years out of them

Regarding inclement weather closures, Chuck said a committee of senior leaders along with the UPD make that decision on whether they do a closure or not. There is heavy focus on the students here on campus.

Student Government Association – A Year in Review

Colin Street, President, SGA

Thomas Giggenbach, Internal Senates Liaison, SGA

Sydney Pringle, Senator-At-Large, SGA

Colin, Thomas, and Sydney agreed to provide a review of what they have done this year with a slide presentation.



SCA Student Government Association

A Year In Review

Street-Jones Administration



SGA's Guiding Principles

- Securing Tangible Positive Change on Campus
- Giving Back to the Community
- Advocating for Students' Needs

Embracing a Healthy Student Life

- Mutual Aid Cabinet Trial Downtown
- Expansion to Evansdale & HSC and Branding
- Partnership with WVU WELL, WRC, The Rack



Fighting Apathy on Campus



- #1 Reason Students Dropout of WVU is a Lack of "fit"
- Invigorating an Academic Culture with the return of the Festival of Ideas

Reducing Student Costs

- Institutional Financial Stability Post Transformation
- Tackling Everyday Costs
 - Surveying the Athletic Fee
 - Data Collection on 3rd Party Plaforms

Solar panels are on the horizon for WVU Evansdale campus thanks to student efforts



Building Relationships in Charleston



- HB 3279 Illuminated Shortfalls
- Leveraging the Advisory Council of Students
- Advocating for SB 675 and HB 4081

Internal Branch of SGA

- Bureau of Development - Cultivating Leadership
- Bureau of Finance - \$100,000 to Student Orgs
- Bureau of Legislation - Streamlining Collaboration



External Branch of SGA



- **Communications** - Scaling with Programmatic Media
- **University Relations** - Share a Swipe
- **Community Engagement** - Connection Building Service

<h2>SGA Committees</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Projects - Peer Mentors • Campus Connection - Know Your Rights Campaign • Safety - Safety Walks 	<h2>SGA Committees, cont.</h2>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM Help - Lab Equipment Drive • Student Experience - Football Hydration Station • Sustainability - Mon. River Clean Up
 <h1>Questions?</h1> 	<h1>Thank You!</h1>

Legislative Initiatives

Jason Gross, Ph.D., Faculty Senate Representative for the WV State Government & WV Advisory Council of Faculty Rep.

Jason agreed to provide an update on some of the legislative initiatives and updates. He works closely with Travis Mollohan and Dan Kimble in Government and State Relations.

- Demonstrated how to [track legislation](#)
- Currently on day 36/37 into their 60-day session;
 - by day forty, nothing else can be proposed;
 - by day fifty, anything proposed by one side, House or Senate, they must have it passed out, called crossover day
- There are over 2,000 pieces of legislation but most will not progress and not get put on a committee agenda
- There are fifty bills that involve higher education
- For a bill to become law
 - it has to get filtered through if it starts in the House Committee;
 - the Speaker of the House moves it to a floor vote and it's read multiple times;
 - by day fifty, it has to be passed over to the Senate;
 - they conduct the same process at the Senate, and have ten days to do it

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Thea. Dianne seconded. All in favor and meeting adjourned at approximately noon.