University Staff Senate

July 15, 2025 | 2:00pm-4:30pm | RSC 142 – Harvest Room

**Senators in attendance:**

Marco Villela, Margee Rees, Sara Mata, Kennedy Rogers, Jacob Mendez, Chukwunenye Nweke, Jennifer Eastham, Angela Blackerby, Monica Bergkamp, Angela Linder, Christopher Leonard, Aaron Coffey, Krissy Archambeau, Daniel Ludlow, Kelley Smetak, Lyndsay Pletcher, Kevin Duffy, Whitney Crager, Jessica Pierpoint, Kendra Nguyen, Nathan Johnson, Courtney Henry, Trang Bui, Susan McCoy, John Keckiesen, Sarah Mathews, Corby Redington, Gabriel Fonseca, Stacy Salters, Zachary Brown

**Senators not in attendance:**

Anne Marie Brown, Kimberly Gutierrez

1. **Call to Order**
   1. [Approval of Minutes](https://wichitastate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5yScuZfUW6JL794) – Electronic
   2. Motion to approve the June minutes was made by Gabriel Fonseca, seconded by Jessica Pierpoint. Motion carried.
2. **Guest Presenter**
   1. Dr. Monica Lounsbery, Senior Executive Vice President and Provost
      1. Dr. Lounsbery welcomed the 2025-2026 Staff Senate and shared greetings and gratitude for the upcoming session. Dr. Lounsbery shared updates regarding leadership’s continued diligence in being mindful of the university budget. Leadership continues to work to find efficiencies and make plans to support staff.
3. **Discussion and New Business**
   1. Installation of Executive Committee Officers and New Senators
      1. Jacob Mendez was installed as President by Past President Kennedy Rogers.
      2. Gabriel Fonseca was installed as President-Elect by President Jacob Mendez
      3. Christopher Leonard was installed as Vice President by President Jacob Mendez
      4. Kendra Nguyen was installed as Secretary by President Jacob Mendez
      5. Angela Linder was installed as USS Representative by President Jacob Mendez
      6. Kennedy Rogers was installed as Past President by President Jacob Mendez.
      7. The following senators were installed by President Jacob Mendez:
         * Lyndsay Pletcher
         * Krissy Archambeau
         * Kendra Nguyen
         * Sara Mata
         * Kelley Smetak
         * Nathan Johnson
         * Whitney Crager
         * Angela Blackerby
         * Jennifer Eastham
         * John Keckeisen
         * Jessica Pierpoint
         * Marco Villela
         * Sarah Mathews
         * Courtney Henry
         * Chukwunenye Nweke
   2. Senate Priorities for 2025-2026
      1. Review of previous year’s priorities and activities. Senators shared activities that went well and what they would be interested in doing in the new year.
         1. Senate Visability & Campus Presence
            1. Meet your senator events went well and was great at creating visibility and opportunities to interact with constituents
            2. Look at ways to encourage staff to interact and engage with senate so that we can elevate information and concerns accordingly.
            3. Continue participating in joint meeting/mixer with Faculty senate and SGA
            4. Continue to encourage participation and input for university town halls.
            5. Presence at new employee orientation (currently in process of being done)
         2. Staff Training & Professional Development
            1. Shocker STRIVE Conference, ownership and coordination of the full conference
            2. Professional development committee created a variety of events such as Lunch & Learns, Sculpture Tour
            3. Stock the Shocker Support Locker – bringing this project back to within the professional development committee.
            4. Continued partnership with HR & KLC for providing scholarships for professional development opportunities through KLC.
            5. Employee resource groups – could this be something that staff senate could help coordinate, similar to the model of the Admins Coming Together group.
            6. We may look at defining the scope of the Professional development committee. Could this committee be something like a “Community Engagement Committee” to coordinate a lot of the events/activities that engage staff, help build community, build staff morale, and welcome new staff to campus?
            7. Is there a way we could look for a Shocker Sync-like database or webpage within Shocker START to help provide a hub for resources for staff.
         3. Staff Retention & Wellbeing
            1. We will be receiving the data from the Docking & Hanover surveys that will help provide some more insight into staff needs.
            2. Admins Coming Together group has gone well and plans to continue.
            3. Senate representation on the Campus Climate committee
            4. Expansion of staff awards.
         4. Staff Senate Training & Onboarding
            1. A new senator orientation and retreat was created.
            2. Orientation for the Executive Team as well as Committee chair transitions are in the works to be created.
      2. New priorities
         1. Senators shared priorities that they felt would be important to focus on in the new year.
            1. With the Biomed building completion, a large portion of staff will be at that campus building. We need to be sure to be intentional in connecting with staff at all our satellite campuses.
            2. Ensure that there is more communication of results when information or questions are elevated up to help close the communication loop and acknowledge that concerns have been heard.
            3. Work on ways to bring communities together and providing spaces for staff feel like they are heard and supported. Such as employee resource groups or something similar to the model of the Admins Coming Together group. Provide resources or support for staff that would like to create groups like that.
            4. Work on helping support the wellbeing of staff, especially with a lot of the changes that are happening. There is a lot of uncertainty and staff may be feeling anxious – how can we help encourage and provide self-care opportunities and resources.
            5. Staff Senate visibility – having our programs branded to clearly show staff senate led initiatives. Find a ways for storytelling.
            6. Proactively reviewing policies – not only reviewing policies that are currently being talked about. Look into policies that are not the current “hot topic” to ensure that they are supportive of staff needs.
            7. Leadership trainings – how can we provide resources and trainings for leaders to help them support staff. Some examples shared were 360 degree reviews, trainings on multi-generational workforce, and making trainings required.
            8. Mentorship – how can we provide mentorship opportunities to help new staff coming in.
         2. From reviewing the priorities shared, the general theming were falling within similar categories of last year’s themes:
            1. Senate Visibility & Engagement
            2. Staff Training & Professional Development
            3. Staff Retention & Wellbeing
         3. Krissy Archambeau motioned to approve the current priority themes as they stand from 2024-2025, seconded by Marco Villela. Motion passed.
   3. Staff Senate Teams
      1. Reminder to senators to ensure that they have access to the Staff Senate Microsoft Teams channel. This will be the primary location for all senate files.
   4. Senate Committees
      1. Committee chairs provided a quick summary of what each committee does.
      2. A Qualtrics survey will be going out shortly for senators to rank their interest in committees.
4. **Old Business**
   1. HR Orientation Sign Up & Talking Points
      1. HR will be providing dates and soon for senators to sign up for as well as solidifying talking points for those that sign up to present.
   2. August Meeting
      1. A suggestion was brought up to move the August meeting away from the first week of classes. Options were either to have that meeting fully remote or push back a week.
      2. Gabriel Fonseca moved to push the August Staff Senate meeting back one week. Corby Redington seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Senate Committee Updates**
   1. Awards and Recognition
   2. Communications and Website
   3. Elections
   4. Policy Review
      1. Dependent care on benefits assistance upon employee death.
         1. Statue 40-229, explains that coverage is available for 18-36 months, at the expense of the dependent.
   5. Professional Development and Service
   6. Scholarships
   7. Shocker Strive
6. **Campus/University Business Updates & Discussions**
   1. Academic Forum
   2. Budget Advisory Committee
   3. Human Resources (Joint with Faculty Senate)
   4. Legislative Update + KBOR Briefing
   5. Parking Appeals + Traffic Appeals
   6. President’s Meetings
   7. RSC Board of Directors
   8. UPS/USS Presidents Council (KBOR)
7. **Adjourn/Upcoming Meetings and Events/Shoutouts**
   1. August Senate Meeting: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 | 3:30pm-5:00pm
   2. Fall Address: Wednesday, August 13, Doors open at 2:00pm/Event begins at 2:30pm
   3. Check the [Events Calendar](https://www.wichita.edu/calendar/index.php?com=searchresult) for upcoming events on campus