



STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES	
Date	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Time	9:00 am
Location	BSC Board of Governors
Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ 9 am - Board of Governors	

Members Present: Stefanie Allen, Kandee Behnke, Denice Brown, Ashley Brownfield (President-Elect), Shakira Gammill (Parliamentarian), Laura Gullett, Christina Hamilton, Stephanie Hopkins, Megan McCollough, Eli Moran, Mike Opfer (President)

Member(s) Absent/Excused: Brenda Beasley, Melinda Brown, Katie Fields, Nick Reynolds (Secretary), Teresa Shufflin (Executive-At-Large)

Determination of Quorum: Eleven of sixteen members were present; quorum was established.

Call to Order: President Opfer called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were made to the December Meeting Minutes. Senator Gullett motioned for approval; Senator Hamilton seconded the motion. December minutes were approved as presented.

Administrative / Special Guest Comments:

President's Cabinet: Vice President Rob Yust was present. Vice President Yust shared that construction continues across campus. The tunnel, under Newman Road, will be closed until about the end of January as the construction team continues to work on finishing touches. The entrances to Hearnese Hall and the Spiva Library will be started soon. It was originally planned for fountains to be placed in front of the two buildings, but because of the estimated budget for those, a design with pavers is currently being worked on. At this time, the construction projects on the Oval are anticipated to be complete in April 2022. Taylor Performing Arts Center (TPAC) construction is going well as block and steel work is being done behind the stage as well as new seats and carpeting will be going in. TPAC construction is being paid for by the appropriations that were given by the governor. The Welcome Back meeting is scheduled to be in person for January 13, 2022. Two sessions are being held, one at 8:30am and the second being at 10:30am with a breakfast mixer between the sessions. The Board of Governors is scheduled to meet on Friday, January 14th. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will be held on January 17, 2022, with a Day of Service. Classes start next Tuesday, January 18, 2022, as well as a townhall will be held at 2:30pm in Corley Auditorium.

Faculty Senate: No representative was present; no report.

Student Senate: No representative was present. President Opfer received a report from Student Senate President, Brent Olsen, stating that Student Senate has recently supported Biology Club, K-Club, and Greek Life. They have also partnered with Residence Life and funded \$10,000 towards a sand volleyball court. Senator Gammill asked where Student Senate receives their money to be able to fund projects. Senator Moran specified that they get their funds from a portion of the tuition every semester.



MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

STAFF SENATE

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Date	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Time	9:00 am
Location	BSC Board of Governors

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 9, 2022
@ 9 am - Board of Governors

Staff Senate Committee Reports:

President Opfer called for committee reports.

A. Communication Committee (M. Brown/Hamilton)

Senator Hamilton reported that the committee is still discussing giving tours to new employees after Quarterly Coffees but will be put on hold for now until they receive further information on who will be hosting Quarterly Coffees moving forward.

B. Community Service Committee (Gullett)

Senator Gullett stated the committee has not met but stated that Senator McCollough has volunteered to be the new Chair of the Community Service Committee.

C. Elections Committee (Brownfield/Gammill)

Senator Gammill stated the committee has not met. April will begin the busy season including nominations for Quarter 1 Service Champ Award as well as beginning the yearly election process. An idea was given to the Elections Committee to hold a Q&A session for any staff member who is interested in serving on Staff Senate to allow for them to ask questions and get more insight on what being on Staff Senate entails. The committee will continue to investigate this idea and make potential plans for the event.

D. Executive Committee (Opfer)

President Opfer stated that the committee met to discuss the President's Cabinet (PC) meeting agenda and the bylaw changes. During the meeting with President's Cabinet, the bylaw changes were presented and the Cabinet approved them as presented. With these changes, Senator Shufflin will now be the Executive-At-Large as was voted on in the December Staff Senate meeting. The morale proposal was reviewed with the President's cabinet during the meeting with them. President Opfer also reiterated that he is always willing to take comments and suggestions to the PC during our meetings with them.

E. Governance Committee (Gammill)

Senator Gammill reiterated that the President's Cabinet approved the bylaw changes. Senator Moran asked if there was background on why Staff Senate bylaws must be approved by President's Cabinet when Student Senate and Faculty Senate do not have to do this. Senator Gammill stated she would look more into the background of this.

F. Staff Welfare Committee (Shufflin)

Senator Moran stated the committee is meeting this coming Friday January 14th. They are still waiting for Business Affairs/Human Resources to complete a compensation package for staff. The original request for the proposal was to be completed by January 1st, but the

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES	
Date	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Time	9:00 am
Location	BSC Board of Governors
Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ 9 am - Board of Governors	

committee has not heard anything yet.

Campus Committee Reports

President Opfer called for committee reports.

A. COVID-19 Task Force (Opfer)

President Opfer shared that the task force met last week and is meeting again January 12, 2022. Numbers continue to increase in our area as Delta is still the main issue in Missouri rather than the Omicron variant. There was a campus-wide email sent yesterday, January 11th, regarding the Spring semester guidelines.

B. University Council (Opfer)

President Opfer shared that University Council did not meet.

C. Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee (Opfer)

Committee has not met, no report.

D. Insurance Committee (Shufflin)

Committee has not met, no report. Next meeting is scheduled for February.

E. Shared Sick Leave Committee (Fields)

Senators were not aware of any update.

F. Diversity Committee (D. Brown)

Senator D. Brown shared that the Diversity committee has met. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will be held on January 17th in the North End Zone facility (NEZ) from 6-8pm. This event is free and open to the public with the theme being “Keep Dreaming, Believing, and Moving toward Social and Economic Justice.” Earlier in the day, there will be a day of service for MSSU individuals to participate in from 7:30am-Noon to assist with repairs at four historic black churches in the area as well as at the community center. A link was previously sent out via an all-campus email that was sent out on December 8, 2021, to sign up to volunteer. The Diversity Committee is also looking at hosting more activities for students during the term. If anyone has any ideas for events or activities, contact Denice Brown or Lori Musser.

G. EmpoweringU Committee (Opfer)

President Opfer shared that the first and second goals of PriROARity enrollment were met; 2,194 students (65%) were enrolled as of November 10, 2021. There are currently 2 vacancies on the EmpoweringU Committee including a staff and faculty spot.



MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

STAFF SENATE

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Date	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Time	9:00 am
Location	BSC Board of Governors

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 9, 2022
@ 9 am - Board of Governors

H. Board of Governors (Opfer)

President Opfer stated that the board has not met, but the next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2022.

I. CEBAT (Opfer/Brownfield/Shufflin)

President Opfer stated that CEBAT met Monday, January 10th. Mike listed a few items from a non-exhaustive list of criteria that the President's Cabinet will be utilizing when making decisions.

Unfinished Business

President Opfer asked for any unfinished business. No unfinished business was presented.

New Business

President Opfer asked for any new business.

1. New Senator Appointment

Senator Gullett is resigning her position on Staff Senate due to leaving the University. Senator Allen stated that she is resigning her position on Staff Senate as well. DeAnn Isenhower is the next Senator appointment per the bylaws and the previous election. A motion was made by Senator Hamilton and seconded by D. Brown for DeAnn Isenhower to replace Senator Gullett for the remainder of the current term. As we have exhausted our pool of candidates from the previous election, nominations will come from current Senators by January 25th to replace Senator Allen's seat through the end of the current term year. Senator Brownfield clarified that nominees must be in the same pay classification as Senator Allen and have at least one year at MSSU. Senators are to email their nominations to StaffSenateElection@mssu.edu and a vote will be held at February's Senate meeting.

2. Staff Senate Digital Approach

President-Elect Brownfield stated that to align with the CEBAT's initiative to move to a more digital approach across campus, Staff Senate will be reducing the number of items that are printed for meetings. Only a few copies of agendas and minutes will be available for guests who attend in person. Senators will continue to get copies prior to the meetings and are welcome to print their own copies, but Secretary Reynolds will no longer bring copies for Senators. Senator Hamilton suggested utilizing the screen and bringing up the agenda for all to see during the meeting.

3. Odd Numbers for Committees

Senator Gammill stated that there are currently some committees that are not meeting the requirement to have an odd number of members. The Staff Senate President does not count toward committee membership. The Executive Committee is asking for the Chairs



MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY
STAFF SENATE

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Date	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Time	9:00 am
Location	BSC Board of Governors

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 9, 2022
@ 9 am - Board of Governors

of all committees to review their list of members to make sure they are meeting this requirement.

Comments and Announcements/Guests Input:

1. A guest stated that the COVID dashboard has not been updated since December 4, 2022 and asked if this would be updated soon. President Opfer stated he would take this to the COVID Taskforce meeting.
2. There were 2 guests present. There were 19 online in attendance.

Adjournment: Senator Behnke motioned to adjourn the meeting and Senator Hamilton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.

Next Meeting: 9 a.m. Wednesday, February 9, 2022, in BSC 310.

Submitted by Ashley Brownfield