



# WKU STAFF SENATE

**Monthly Meeting – December 3rd, 2025 (10:00 AM) DSU 2081**

**View Full Meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUu2Rly56NE>

**Call to Order:** 10:02 AM CST

**Roll Call:** 18 Senators in attendance; in person and via Zoom.

**Approval of the Agenda & Prior Monthly Meeting Minutes:** Both approved by unanimous consent.

### **Christopher Ware Staff Star Awards**

Katie Burchfield– Advising & Career Development Center

Teresa Jameson – WKU School of Media & Communication

Braedyn Rutledge – Advising & Career Development Center

### **Officer, Committee, and Staff Regent Reports**

- **Staff Regent – Jennifer Hammonds:** The next Regents meeting is on Thursday December 11th. The agenda has not been sent out yet. Regent Hammonds expects a lot of agenda items from the committee meeting and a housing update. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Regent Hammonds.
- **Communications – Deanna Jenkins:** Staff Senate has received two anonymous comments recently. One was about the proposed public private partnership that was in the paper recently. The commenter wanted to know how that may affect WKU staff. The other communication was regarding tuition reimbursement and the cap and how the Staff Senate can better advocate for staff that are pursuing higher education opportunities. The Staff Senate is researching some answers for those.
- **Treasurer – Andria Henry:** Senator Henry, as chair of the Events Committee, thanked all who came to the November Meet and Greet.

Treasurer's Report

December 2025

AS OF 12/3/2025, FY25:

E&G Index – 100600

- Starting Balance = \$2,560.43
- Additions = \$0.00
- Disbursements = \$60.00
- Ending Balance = \$2,500.43

WKUF Account (Staff Senate Excellence Fund) – 1108600

- Starting Balance = \$2,275.12
- Additions = \$0.00
- Disbursements = \$0.00
- Ending Balance = \$2,275.12

CHF Account (Book Scholarship) – 800139

- Starting Balance = \$1,969.84
- Additions = \$0.00
- Disbursements = \$0.00
- Ending Balance = \$1,969.84

- **Technology – Kent Johnson:** No Report
- **Parliamentarian – Jon Adams:** No Report
- **Secretary – Morgan Moran:** Senator Moran gave an update from the November 14th Parking and Transportation Advisory Council meeting. The meeting included general updates on parking sales and ridership updates. Parking and Transportation has partnered with SGA on a couple of initiatives. They have already sent out a campus wide notice on the 21st about the new Food for Fines program. Parking and Transportation will forgive a parking ticket up to \$50 with donations from the preferred donation list with an estimated value of \$20. Parking and Transportation also partnered with SGA on signage in the parking structures to help those that are struggling with their mental health.

The Onboarding Committee is planning a New Staff Reception on February 12th at 5:00pm at the fireplace room in the Medical Health Complex. Save the dates will be sent out soon. Senator Moran made a motion to spend up to \$500 on food, drinks, and supplies for the reception. The motion was seconded and approved.

- **Vice-Chair – Jordan Ray:** Senator Ray announced the appointment of Jason Lowe as the new senator representing the regional campuses.
- **Chair – Leslie Vanderpool:**
  - Chair Vanderpool asked Senator Hess to present the BEC update. The BEC met yesterday. The committee discussed the process for support units to make presentations to request increases to their budgets. The BEC is anticipating 9-15 proposals to be presented starting in January.
  - There was no November meeting with President Caboni.

**Old Business:**

Kevin Werner's Workplace Safety Report: (Please see attached report.)

Senator Werner shared the findings of the Workplace Safety ad hoc Committee. The committee suggested the creation of a Safety & Security Representative within the Staff Senate. The role could be appointed by the Staff Senate, or an ex-officio role that is appointed by EH&S. Senator Werner asked for input from the Staff Senate. From the

discussion, it was suggested that we need more input from other areas on campus to help define the role of a Safety and Security Representative as many areas on campus contribute to the safety and security on Campus. A motion was made to table the topic until the next meeting and was approved,

**New Business:** None

**Public Comment:** Senator Hess asked what we know about the public-private partnership and how it could affect WKU Staff. Regent Hammonds shared that she was researching a claim that UK experienced a reduction in workforce due to a public-private partnership. While UK did experience a reduction in workforce around the same time as they entered a partnership, the reason for the layoffs was a result of a loss in state appropriations. More research is needed to determine whether other universities have experienced layoffs after entering a private-public partnership.

**Announcements & Notable Events:**

- Spring semester book scholarship applications are due January 1, 2026.
- The date for the Spring Meet and Greet is set for April 15, 2026, at 10:30am.
- The Staff Ombudsperson position will be posted soon.

**Adjournment:** 10:49 am CST

## **Senator Werner's Report on Workplace Safety.**

While looking into ways to improve workplace safety, I investigated what other shared governance boards were doing at other universities. This is what I found:

- University of Louisville

Staff Senate hosts regular briefings with campus safety leadership, covering initiatives like improved lighting, escort services, and real-time crime dispatch.

- Penn State

Maintains a University Safety Council with representatives from across units to review occupational health programs and safety policies.

- University of Pittsburgh

Organizes a Virtual Campus Safety Crawl to proactively identify hazards and engage staff in safety awareness.

- Eastern Kentucky University

Includes a Safety & Security Representative on its Staff Council, who liaises with emergency management and coordinates safety initiatives.

We already host regular briefings like UofL does. Establishing a separate campus wide Safety Council would be beyond the scope of Staff Senate alone, though we could advocate for one. A Virtual Campus Safety Crawl could be an annual Staff Senate event but doesn't address the need for an on-going focus on safety. Establishing the role of Safety & Security Representative within the Staff Senate, such as ECU has, seems to be the right fit.

The responsibilities of the role would include:

Advocate for staff safety concerns during Senate meetings.

Collaborate and communicate with EH&S.

Organize awareness programs and announce upcoming trainings. (e.g., Safety Crawl, AED training, Fire Extinguisher Training ).

Serve as a reporting conduit for hazards and incidents.

Provide monthly updates to Staff Senate and an annual report to administration.

The question that I still have unresolved is whether this role should be appointed by Staff Senate, or an ex-officio role that is appointed by EH&S. There are pros and cons to each. If it's staff senate appointed volunteer, we have more control over what the role entails, but the person in that role will change every year and they may or may not have the time to fulfil the responsibilities. If it's appointed by EH&S the role of Staff Senate Liaison becomes part of their job responsibilities.

I'm partial to having a Liaison appointed by EH&S, but I wanted to get your feedback before proposing anything. I've created two draft motions below. Please let me know your thoughts.