

Staff Senate

Monthly Meeting Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025, 1:00 PM

In-Person/Hybrid

Facilitator: Detric Robinson

Invited attendees: Mike Bunker, Chief of Campus Safety

Present: *Kacie Dohrmann, Jason Jackson, Bill Scott, Alistair Wallace, Gloria Bokenkamp, Meg Dimsa, Jon Kraus, Tamara Tabb, Liam Westwood, Chico Dimas, Maggie Heyduk, Adela Smith, Aleesha McDowell, Detric Robinson, Darlene Squires, Christine Hood, John Maly, Audrey Townsend, Virginia Pitts, Shelby Wones, Gergana Kostadinova Law, Jon Stone, Jackalynn Mayfield, Katie Schroeder, Sarabeth Wolbrom, Jeremy Wu, Waltrina DeFrantz-Dufor, Jeff Banks, Abi Newell*

Meeting Minutes

1:00 Call to Session (Detric)

- Abi Newell, the new Undergraduate Student Government representative, was introduced, highlighting USG's focus on fostering stronger collaboration and communication between various groups, including faculty and staff, and senates.
- Adela Smith, newly elected Staff Senate Treasurer, introduced self and shared commitment to providing transparent and consistent quarterly financial updates.
- Maggie Heyduk, newly elected Staff Senate Secretary, introduced electronic check-in system to ensure accurate attendance tracking and streamline processes.

1:05 Campus Safety Updates

Chief Bunker provided a comprehensive update on campus safety initiatives, highlighting key developments and ongoing efforts to prioritize the well-being of the campus community.

Initiative Highlights:

- Body-Worn Cameras: Deployment is underway to enhance accountability and transparency.
- Taser Rollout: Designed as a defensive tool, the hope is it will rarely need to be used.
 - Accompanied by the removal of batons from officer belts.
- Staffing Update:
 - By Monday, only one officer position will remain vacant, a significant improvement. Typical shortage of 10–16% now reduced.

- Introduction of a new training sergeant with extensive experience in USCG and the Jefferson County Sheriff's office.
- Deputy Chief to begin March 17, with an on-campus visit February 10 for stakeholder introductions Their focus is on fostering community engagement as a top priority.
- Co-Responder Model / Alternative Response:
 - Developed in collaboration with Graduate School of Social Work leadership
 - Inspired by James Madison University's successful model.
 - Plans for a robust 24-hour dispatch system through Campus Safety, extending services to students, faculty, and staff.
 - Three co-responder positions planned, with housing in Campus Safety offices and non-branded vehicles for use.

Staff Senate Q&A and Additional Insights:

- CPR/First Aid Training: Expected to resume soon, enhancing safety preparedness.
- Co-Responder Availability: On-call student staff can request co-responder assistance as needed.
- Access to Arms: the team is carefully aligning policies with city regulations and external consultation.
- Taser Training:
 - Includes VR-based simulations and updates to the use-of-force policy.
 - Implicit bias and DEI training are not part of taser-specific training but are integrated into broader accreditation requirements.
- Marketing and Communication:
 - Plans to promote new initiatives through student-centered outreach and word of mouth, acknowledging that rollout might face challenges.

Note: Chief Bunker encouraged those interested in joining the supervisor search committee to reach out via email.

1:40 Other Staff Senate Business & Updates

Elections Code Discussion:

- Detric presented a draft of the revised Elections Code, emphasizing the importance of aligning processes with organizational needs. Key changes include:
- Special elections will now occur in the first two weeks of each quarter.
- Adjustments to align election cycles with the fiscal year.
- At-large senators will fill open seats as they become available.
- Special election appointees will serve the remainder of the vacant term and then re-enter the standard election process.
- Outcome: The proposed changes were brought to a motion, seconded, and unanimously approved by all present.

Other Updates:

- *Message from the Chancellor:* Efforts are underway to enhance direct communication with staff, coordinated by Detric and Ross.
- *HRIC Announcements (Jeff Banks)*
 - HRIC Bridge Takeover
 - Upcoming Town Hall scheduled for next Wednesday from 10:00–11:30 AM (Zoom); recording to be archived. Staff encouraged to join.
 - Plans for Employee Appreciation Event on January 30 via Crimson Connect; attendees encouraged to register in advance and bring friends and family.
- *Food Pantry Relaunch:* Recognized as a vital resource for the community, its reopening is a testament to the power of advocacy and support for essential services.

Announcements:

- *Staff Fitness Classes:* Free classes are now available to all staff, with an additional 10% discount on other services.
- *Improvements in Benefits Processes:*
 - Fully staffed Benefits Team, with new hires focused on delivering exceptional service.
 - Challenges with technological interfaces are being addressed to enhance user experience.
 - Staff are encouraged to contact Jeff Banks directly for unresolved issues, slow response time or feedback.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:03 PM