



## Staff Senate Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

9 am – 11 am

SUB Alumni Legacy Lounge

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Called to order by Kayla Lee at 9:07 am.
  
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. *December 2025*
    - i. The minutes from the December 2025 meeting were reviewed, motioned, and seconded.
    - ii. Approved unanimously.
  
- III. Public Comment
  
- IV. Speakers
  - a. *Megan Lasso – Associate Vice President, Financial Services*
    - i. Financial reporting on the back end of the university.
    - ii. Fund Overview:
      1. How does money come in is how it has to be used; money cannot move around buckets.
      2. Tuition and state fees, room and board, ticket sales and testing service fees, grants and donors, and capital projects and mandatory fees.
      3. Designated funds come in from outside sources
      4. Donor funds can only be spent on what the donor gave the money for.
      5. Capital projects are for spending like buildings on campus.
      6. The type of revenue determines the type of funds.
    - iii. MSU Net Current Unrestricted Revenue:
      1. Out-of-state students make up half of unrestricted revenue.
    - iv. MSU Current Unrestricted:
      1. A significant source of revenue came from out of state students, and MSU was reliant on them.
      2. It was slightly lower in 2016; every two years tuition rates are set by the Board of Regents. The rate this year set for out of state students was a little lower than anticipated for this year.
      3. There was more money in state appropriation
      4. Some of this money jumped to “new space” which is an administrative and instructional building. Operations and maintenance are funded by the state, such as utilities and custodial services.
    - v. 5-year Revenue Key Metrics:
      1. Budget by FTE.

2. There are more non-residents than residents that must be accounted for.
3. Want to make sure net tuition is growing at the same rate as state appropriation.
- vi. Net Current Unrestricted Expenditures by Program:
  1. 75% of spending on salaries, benefits, and wages, because of this, did not have to lay anyone off or furlough if tuition decreases like it did during the pandemic.
  2. 13% spending on operations.
  3. 8% spending on capital and transfers.
- vii. Expenditures by Program:
  1. All money is put into indexes to then be spent.
  2. For FY26 52.8% is instruction, 13.4 is academic support, 9.5% is student services, 8.4% is instructional support, and 12.4% is research, public service, and scholarships.
- viii. Student Enrollment:
  1. WUE: these states students can apply and pay 150% of the resident rate.
- ix. Waivers and Enrollment:
  1. Such as faculty and staff waivers (board designated one).
  2. Dependents can get a 50% discount after 4 months.
  3. Native American fee waivers.
  4. MUS honors.
  5. Graduate waivers are discretionary.
  6. What attracts a student to choose MSU as a school as an out-of-state student?
- x. Questions?
  1. The tuition for 2027 has been set, \$18 per credit hour. Do not charge anymore after 12 credits.
  2. The demographic cliff (declining birth rates, so fewer highschoolers coming to college) has most affected MSU for states that make up a lot of the MSU student population.
  3. Individual area donations go through the Alumni Foundation; university alone does not take direct donations. For small donations for fundraising that go through the foundation.

*b. Sophia Bielsky – Director, Student Commons*

- i. Student Commons is part of access and success.
- ii. The goal is to enhance the student's sense of belonging across the campus, serving all students.
- iii. New program is called common voices
  1. Culminates on April 17<sup>th</sup> into a performance at Inspiration Hall.
  2. They want students to feel more than just students on campus.
- iv. Another program is Skills to Dialogue
  1. Created by MSU students for them specifically.
  2. Staff in Student Commons have gone through training and picked up the most useful information to pass along to students.

V. Previous Business

- a. *Second read of Operating Agreement and Constitution*
  - i. All Council has been changed to Staff.
  - ii. Program Coordinator to Program Manager.
  - iii. Add MUSSA chair non-voter but part of the exec team meeting to give updates (they are a two-year appointment).
  - iv. Can push it through; name changes to the committee would be making an amendment.
  - v. Motioned, and passed.
- b. *Caleb Fey is the new Member-at-Large, and Charlynn Malcom is the new Governance Committee Chair*

VI. New Business

- a. Flexibility from inclement weather:
  - i. Will be brought up to President Tessman at next meeting.
  - ii. Lieutenant Luhrsen:
    1. Faculty should not cancel classes due to dangerous weather.
    2. Institutional response Group would make decisions on an emergency basis and would communicate through emergency alerts and communications. President and exec team would make that call.
- b. Head of Compliance, Justin Arndt, is going to send information to both the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate to keep us updated on policies.

VII. President's Meeting Update

VIII. MUSSA Information

IX. Informational Items

X. Staff Senate Committee Updates

- a. *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*
  - a. *New name*
    - i. Landed on Equity and Belonging Committee.
    - ii. Will update diversity statements on the Staff Senate website to reflect this change.
  - b. *Governance*
    - a. Committee charters are to be written and serve as supplemental to the Constitution.
  - c. *Professional Development*
    - a. Create their own charter and work on a draft.
  - d. *Special Events & Recognition*
    - a. Creating the 5k fundraiser they want to do for the staff scholarship.
      - i. Working on a t-shirt design.
      - ii. Mountains and Miles is the current working name for the event.
    - b. Figuring out watch party for March Madness.

- XI. External Committee Reports
  - a. *Budget Council*
  - b. *Campus Sustainability Advisory Council*
  - c. *Classroom Committee*
  - d. *Diversity Council*
  - e. *Outreach and Engagement Council*
  - f. *Parking Appeals*
  - g. *Planning Council*
  - h. *Public Arts & Artifacts Committee*
  - i. *Research Council*
  - j. *Space Management Committee*
  - k. *University Facilities Planning Board (UFPB)*

- XII. Adjourn
  - a. Meeting adjourned at 10:59 am by Kayla Lee.

**Next Meeting:**  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
9:00 am – 11:00 am  
*SUB Alumni Legacy Lounge*