



WKU STAFF SENATE

Monthly Meeting – August 5, 2026 (10:00 AM) DSU 2081

View Full Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KMMrQfjMecQ>

Call to Order: 10:00 AM CST

Roll Call: 19 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

- Lindsay Johnson - Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Rob Kelley - Housing and Residence Life
- Renee Updegraff - Office of Admissions

Guest Speaker

Andrea Anderson, WKU General Counsel, provided updates on the Elevate WKU P3 housing project, shared photos of the project renderings of phase 1, and answered questions about the development and related housing operations.

- Andrea noted this is the biggest project in the university's history, that it will have long-ranging effects, and it will transform student housing on our campus.
 - In April the Board of Regents approved partnership with Gilbane.
 - Key Partners in the P3 Transaction: Gilbane, Inwood Management Co., Collegiate Housing Foundation and WKU. The university financially closed the deal in June.
 - Phase 1 also included a recent renovation to Southwest Hall and photos will be taken this week.
 - Questions were raised about maintenance and emergency access to the rear of the Preston Center for servicing sprinklers, electrical systems, and other maintenance needs. Andrea will follow up on these concerns.
 - She shared there will be a standardized look with the new buildings. Brick has been selected. Also, Andrea noted we want to make sure we are sticking to WKU branding.
 - The target is not to expand the number of beds available in the new residence halls unless we need to. The target is to replace the buildings.
 - We have temporary master leases in place with Campus Flats and Center Hall (Hyatt Place) to fill the void of current off-line buildings.
 - Lease ends July 2028 with the option to extend the lease or purchase these facilities.
 - Inwood is maintaining Center Hall (Hyatt Place) in a separate agreement.

- Inwood should be taking over Regents and Normal this week. Students will be housed there this fall.
- Student Life Foundation: They must complete three tasks.
 - They will exist until they finalize their litigation, the demo work on Hilltopper Hall needs to be completed, and completion of Regents and Normal Halls.
 - SLF is a separate legal entity. We are not part of the litigation.
- Phase 2 is projected to be in the Valley with a new facility targeting sophomore students. The intent is to expand LLCs beyond the first-year experience. This will be completed based on student needs and demands at the time.
- There was a question about how Inwood is evaluated. Inwood is evaluated based on student feedback and national standards.
- Aramark will continue to be the food service provider.
- Goals: Use this project to support recruitment and retention, support the residential community, leverage national expertise in every phase of the project, retain more upper division students in University housing, maintain affordability and we have to move quickly.

Officer, Committee, and Staff Regent Reports

- **Chair – Jordan Ray:**
 - Chair Ray reported that he has accepted a new position outside of WKU and his last day is August 11, 2026. This will be his last meeting as Chair. An election to fill this role will be held after the officer/committee reports.
- **Vice Chair – Tanya Vincent:** No Report
- **Secretary – Rhonda Jones:** No Report
- **Parliamentarian – Tracy Bryant:** No Report
- **Technology – Kent Johnson:**
 - Senator Johnson mentioned the book scholarship is open for fall and encouraged staff to apply. The application is located on the Staff Senate website.
- **Treasurer – Andria Henry**

AS OF 8/4/2026, FY27:

E&G Index – 100600

- Starting Balance = \$3,700.00
- Additions = \$0.00
- Disbursements = \$0.00
- Ending Balance = \$3,700.00

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

- **Communications – Deanna Jenkins:**

- Senator Jenkins received two comments via email. One anonymous and one non-anonymous.
 - Non-anonymous: Concerns were mentioned about the need for a bike lane with the new construction. This will be passed along to P&T.
 - Anonymous: Concerns about the recent Town Hall meeting and a misrepresentation concern.
 - Senator Werner responded to anonymous comment and gave a public apology and thanked the individual for commenting.
- **Staff Regent – Jennifer Hammonds:** The Board of Regents will meet soon, and she is happy to take questions/concerns and speak on our behalf.
- **SGA:** SGA Student Body President Caden Lucas highlighted this year is the 68th anniversary of SGA. They will be doing more outreach and getting more students involved in the conversations. Also, there will be a M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan \$1,000.00 scholarship raffle for any student who shows up and/or participates for any SGA sponsored events that week.
- **EVP SOF:** No Report

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Election was held to replace Chair Ray.
- Vice Chair Vincent was nominated for Chair by Senator Werner. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and Tanya Vincent was elected Chair.
- An election was held to fill the Vice Chair vacancy. Senator Henry self-nominated, and Senator Jones nominated Senator Hess. The vote resulted in a tie. Senator Hess withdrew his nomination, and, there being no further nominations, Senator Henry was elected Vice Chair.
- An election was held to fill the Treasurer vacancy. Senator Hardin self-nominated and, there being no further nominations, was elected Treasurer.

Public Comment:

- Andrea Anderson encouraged everyone to sign up to assist with student move-in.

- Senator Jenkins reminded everyone that the September meeting will be held at a new time. Email reminders have been sent, with additional reminders to follow. President Caboni will be the guest speaker. The meeting will be held Wednesday, September 2, at 2:00 p.m. in DSU Room 2081.

Announcements & Notable Events: None

Adjournment: 11:00 AM CST