



WKU STAFF SENATE

Monthly Meeting – July 1, 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: 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

Cameron Carr-Calvert – South Central Kentucky AHEC

Austin Daniel – Mahurin Honors College

Clem Thomas – Housing and Residence Life

Officer, Committee, and Staff Regent Reports

- **Chair – Jordan Ray:**
 - Chair Ray reported that Provost Fischer will host six open forum sessions for WKU staff. These sessions provide an opportunity for staff to meet with the provost and engage in candid discussions. The scheduled dates and times will be emailed out soon. Chair Ray encouraged all Staff Senate members to attend at least one session to represent Staff Senate well and to show the provost and administration that these conversations are important and meaningful to staff.
- **Vice Chair – Tanya Vincent:**
 - Vice Chair Vincent reported that Andrea Anderson will be the guest speaker during the August 5th meeting. Andrea will be discussing the recent housing changes and updates. A call for questions will be sent out soon.
- **Secretary – Rhonda Jones:** No Report
- **Parliamentarian – Tracy Bryant:** No Report
- **Technology – Kent Johnson:** No Report
- **Treasurer – Andria Henry**
 - Treasurer Henry reported new senator shirts were ordered and are now here.

Treasurer's Report

July 2027

AS OF 7/1/2026, 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:** No Report
- **Staff Regent – Jennifer Hammonds:** No Report. They will meet again in August.
- **SGA:** SGA Student Body President Caden Lucas introduced himself again and reiterated to let him know if we need anything.
- **EVP SOF:** Susan Howarth was no longer logged into the meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chair Ray spoke on how we have two nominations for the Staff Emeritus designation and how Staff Senate is part of the process. Chair Ray made a motion to forward the nominations to President Caboni for review. The motion was seconded by Senator Jenkins. The motion carried.

- Staff Emeritus Designation
 - o John Mark Clauson (Department of Biology)
 - o John Holder (Student Financial Assistance)

Public Comment:

- Senator Werner shared the following message.

Fellow senators, I want to thank you for your participation today. Participation in Staff Senate reflects a belief that what happens here has value.

At WKU, that belief is not ours alone. If you ever doubt the importance of what we do here, look no further than the Board of Regents. In their Code of Ethics, the number one item on the list reads: “To accept the spirit of academic freedom and shared governance as fundamental characteristics of University governance.” Fundamental. Not symbolic. Not optional.

Fundamental. But principles and practice are not the same thing. There have been frequent failures to follow the principles of shared governance. Failures to fully engage and meaningfully incorporate shared governance into the decision-making process. And when that happens, it creates a clear tension with the very principle established by Board of Regents and affirmed by the Faculty Senate and Student Government.

Across higher education, we are seeing what happens when people feel their voices are not being meaningfully heard. At institutions like USC, and New Mexico State faculty and staff have moved to change their representation after concluding that existing governance structures were not working. Cornell, Penn, and Caltech have done the same in just the last few years. The pattern is consistent: when shared governance is not experienced in practice, people look for other ways to ensure their voices cannot be ignored. When shared governance weakens in practice, something else rises to take its place.

But here is the key point: The Staff Senate's commitment to shared governance does not depend on anyone else's consistency. We participate because we still believe it is the right model for this university. We engage because better decisions come from broader perspectives. And we continue to show up because shared governance only exists where people insist on practicing it. That's why what you are doing here matters. We are here to represent our constituents, and the staff engagement survey tells us how they wanted to be represented. When asked "How do you feel the Staff Senate can better serve and represent WKU staff" they voiced a clear, repeated desire for us to advocate more forcefully and visibly. The word "Advocate" and variations appears more than 20 times. They use phrases like "Speak up", "stand up", "push back," "be vocal," "fight", "Fight harder," "ask the hard questions," "say the hard things," "rattle some cages," "call BS," "be bulldogs," and "be verbal". That is what our constituents are asking us to do. That is what we are here to do. That is how we ensure that shared governance survives, even when it is being ignored by others. Every time you speak, question, contribute, or represent your colleagues, you are fighting for a principle the university itself has said is fundamental.

Thank you for your time.

Announcements & Notable Events: None

Adjournment: 10:29 AM CST