



## Staff Advisory Council General Meeting Minutes

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### STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL

Staff Advisory Council met on  
**November 13, 2024 at 1:15pm** at  
**412 Student Union (Council Room).**

*All meetings are open to the public. Virtual attendance links  
are available upon request.*

- A. **Call to Order:** Sam Morse
  
- B. **Moment of Silence:** Sam Morse
  
- C. **Roll Call:** Sam Cypert
  - a. Members Present (Virtual):
    - i. Casey Enarson, Victoria Gandy, Robert Sloan, Michelle Stewart, Mili Jha, Joshua Hawkins, Nick Irby, Kaitlin Little.
  - b. Members Present (In-Person):
    - i. Sam Morse, Kimberly Meints, Molly Battershell, Justin Worley, Nicole Hendricks, Kimberly Howerton, Jannell Hamilton, Natalie Noles, Sherri Buntin, Angie Duckworth, Ramitha Raja, Deidre Parrish, Aaron Lively, Kegan Herrick, Emily Billings.
  - c. Guests Present (In-Person):
    - i. Will Joyce, Mayor of Stillwater, OSU Meeting and Conferences Staff.
  - d. Guests Present (Virtual):
    - i. Dennis Slaton.
  - e. Regrets:
    - i. Kala Davis.
  
- D. **Approval of the Minutes:** Sam Morse
  - a. Motioned by Justin Worley.
  - b. Seconded by Sherri Buntin.
  
- E. **Approval of the Agenda:** Sam Morse
  - a. Motioned by Sherri Buntin
  - b. Seconded by Justin Worley
  
- F. **Special Guest Speaker(s):** Will Joyce, City of Stillwater
  - a. Stillwater Comprehensive Plan
    - i. Any resident can provide input into the Stillwater Comprehensive Plan. Google “Stillwater Comprehensive Plan” to find more information and complete the survey.
  - b. Community Parks

- i. The city has completed a large-scale park survey and is working to do smaller-scale local surveys. QR Codes have been added to several parks in the Stillwater area that residents can scan and provide feedback about amenities and items they'd like to see added, repaired, replaced, etc. Goal is to get more organic feedback as to how residents are utilizing parks.
  - ii. January 9, 2025 – Follow up meeting regarding parks. Will be sharing feedback from surveys as well as give community members opportunity to provide additional input.
- c. 4 Private Projects
  - i. USA Rare Earth Manufacturing Facility: \$17M in upgrades so far to the facility. Company is growing slower than anticipated. Rare Earth Magnet manufacturing will be one of the first in the United States. Company is getting ready to go public for investment.
  - ii. The HUB: Project of the Tonkawa Tribe. Facility at the Corner of Airport Rd. and Perkins Rd. Location will host a movie theater, arcade, sports bar, restaurant, bowling, and other additional activities. Goal is to provide a family-friendly recreation facility in Stillwater area. This is fully private investment by the Tonkawa Tribe; city is not putting forth any money/incentives.
  - iii. Old Armstrong Building: Acquired by Kingspan. Company is headquartered in Ireland. Manufacturing will be manufacturing roofing materials. Currently looking at adding 120 manufacturing roles at the location. Will be restarting up freight rail lines that connect to the Gulf of Mexico.
  - iv. Data Center Facility: Will be the largest economic development in the state of Oklahoma. Plan will be owned and operated by multiple locations. One single tenant will be owned and operated by one of the largest data/Internet companies in the United States. Facilities will be located directly north of the old Armstrong facility. OG&E franchise agreement was passed to provide diversity to the power provided to the area, as well as a 3% franchise fee. This will be OG&E's largest power load in the state. 20-25 new jobs will be created per data center. The plan is to authorize up to six centers, but as of now construction of 2 are the initial approval phases. Depending on water/electrical usage, the city plans to wait and see.
- d. Public Projects
  - i. New Fire Station – currently under construction on Western Rd. Will replace campus fire station No. 2. Once this is vacated, the university will resume control of the campus facility.
  - ii. Block 34 – Public Square under construction. \$12M project. \$8M being spent on the block and stage; majority of funds are coming from local partners. Rest of funding will be new street and sidewalk funding, as well as underground utilities.

**e. Future Projects:**

- i.** Animal Control Facility – city looking at locations to build a new location as well as source funding. In the spring, voters will likely be coming to vote on another bond to fund this. Facility will include a new local dog park.
- ii.** Public Swimming Pool – currently in need of repair or replacement. YMCA is looking to build along 12<sup>th</sup> St. City is looking to put forth a bond to fund a water park for the YMCA.

**f. Q&A**

- i.** Kim Howerton: How can the city improve roads and sidewalks around the Greek houses south of Stillwater?
  - 1.** Will Joyce: City does need to be able to fund these sorts of improvements. The way Stillwater determines how streets get fixed involves driving a truck with sensors to monitor the pave grade, as well as collect metrics on how often they're used. From here priorities are ranked. This is why neighborhood streets tend to have older/more unmaintained roads. Stillwater is currently examining Monticello. City does try to help with lower-traffic projects if/when possible.
    - a.** Around the same time the bond passed for the fire station, another bond was passed to repair streets. Knoblock from the fire station to 6<sup>th</sup> St. is currently on the list to start repairs sometime next summer.
    - b.** Major Joyce has asked city staff to put forward a list of sidewalks that need repairs and/or additions.
- ii.** Justin Worley: You talked about a new manufacturing facility that will be utilizing rail lines for freight. Are there new plans or alterations to the Rails to Trails project?
  - 1.** City is currently converting rail line from Boomer Lake through Couch Park. City is working on legal logistics to facilitate this. City currently has \$3M in ODOT grants to help with renovation. The rail lines north of Boomer will not be converted. Kingspan and the state of Oklahoma are working to get the northern rail lines retrofitted for usage. No additional facilities
- iii.** Kaitlin Little: What is the timeline on the Rails to Trails project?
  - 1.** City received notes that an objection had been filed to the request. Federal process is quite lengthy. City has received a Notice of Interim Trail Use. Homeowners near the rail line will be entitled to compensation. The compensation process will likely take up to five years. A year ago, ODOT awarded the first \$1.2M to start the first half of the trail, and ODOT awarded additional funding this year.

2. In terms of expansion to the Kameoka Trail, there is nothing currently on the docket. Would like to see more development on the northern side of town.
- iv. Ramitha Raja: Are there any new projects coming on the west side of town?
1. There have been a few rumors about business. There has been a sales tax incentive program for the western side of town. So far, this incentive has never been used. All property has been listed in Chamber of Commerce materials to help with advertising. There have been some inquiries; city would like to see more development in this area. Nothing concrete at this time.
  2. City is working to acquire additional land around Western and 12<sup>th</sup> St. to develop a “health corridor” as well as soccer and baseball fields. Goal is to make this area of town a major hub for recreation.
  3. [Mayor@stillwaterok.gov](mailto:Mayor@stillwaterok.gov).

**G. Officer Reports:**

a. **Treasurer’s Report:** Molly Battershell

b. **Secretary:** Sam Cypert

- i. No report.

c. **Vice-Chair:** Kimberly Meints

i. Monthly STARs Awards, November 2024:

1. Abby Johns
2. Alexis Guyton
3. Amanda Hamlett
4. Averie Lucas
5. Brecca Farr
6. Charmaine Motte
7. Dana Bolt
8. Jennifer Gallaway
9. Kaitlin Little
10. Natalie Noles

d. **Chair:** Sam Morse

- i. Thank you to those who submitted committee reports.
- ii. There is one committee that needs two additional members. Non-SAC members are able to join. Two additional staff are

needed for the Conduct Committee. With the departure of previous SAC members, there are additional spots to fill.

1. Angie Duckworth stated she is interested in joining.
- iii. Parking & Transportation Updates
1. Sam was able to join monthly meeting. Large amount of topics covered pertained to crosswalks. Although the Pedestrian Safety Task Force is being phased out, the duties and responsibilities are being picked up by another existing group. Group is also looking at where better crosswalks can be added to the housing areas of campus. Accessible entrances and parking spaces were also a topic of discussion. There are also potential solutions being examined that will help staff and students more easily find available spots.
- iv. SAC is working with President Shrum's office to set her up as a guest speaker.
- v. SAC's next guest speaker will be the Veteran Faculty & Staff Association at OSU. Training will be provided on how to better support veterans and family of veterans on campus. Dr. Francisco will also be providing updates to university-level committees.

#### **H. Reports of Standing Committees:**

**a. Rules, Policy, and Procedures:** Justin Worley

- i. RPP will have new business later on in the meeting.
- ii. Policy revisions are underway. RPP also analyzing benefits and looking at potential recommendations for benefit expansion.

**b. Communications Committee:** Kaitlin Little

- i. No report.
- ii. Sam Morse: variety of communication in works pertaining to DSAs and University Awards Convocation.

**c. Awards and Recognition Committee:** Natalie Noles

- i. Distinguished Service Awards
  1. Email should be going out within the next hour that will outlay the top 10 finalists, semifinalists, and honorable mentions. Event will take place on Dec. 4 at 1:30 p.m. at the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center. SAC members are encouraged to arrive at 1 p.m. to help with welcoming and greeting.
  2. 32 nominees. Committee has been working to get everything graded and reviewed.

- d. **Events Committee:** Ramitha Raja
  - i. Staff Celebration Day will be May 20, 2025. President Shrum has been informed.
  - ii. Lions Meadows of Hope will be the entity SAC is sponsoring.
- e. **Access, Community, and Engagement:** Mili Jha
  - i. No report. ACE Committee is working on multiple projects and hoping to bring them forward to the Council in early 2025.

**I. Branch Campus Reports:**

**a. OSU-Tulsa:**

- i. No report.

**b. OSU-CHS (Center for Health Sciences):**

- i. No report.

**c. OSU-OKC (Oklahoma City):** Nick Irby

- i. Staff Council is planning out remainder of semester. Holiday decoration contest underway.
- ii. There are a few projects that will be mentioned in greater detail at a later meeting.

**d. OSUIT-Okmulgee (Institute of Technology):** Robert Sloan

- i. OSU-IT did well on their United Way Campaign, and OSU-IT is opening a disc golf course.

**J. Reports of University Committees:**

**a. Faculty Council:** Roxanne

- i. President Shrum attended most recent meeting. Primary topic of conversation are faculty wages. OSU has lost several high-profile faculty to other institutions due to wage differences.
- ii. OSU also looking at transitioning out-of-state tuition waiver into a scholarship opportunity for out-of-state students. Waivers are being focused on students going into fields that have been deemed as critical to the state of Oklahoma.
- iii. President Shrum discussed requests they are making during the next legislative session regarding OSU funding. University Health Services and the College of Veterinary Medicine are focuses this next year.
- iv. OSU College of Veterinary Medicine are now on accreditary probation. College did not have budget to maintain accreditation status. This is now a top priority for the university.

- v. President Shrum is working with OU to discuss tier-based formulas for state, two-year, and regional universities. Goal is to provide more per-student fairness in terms of funding.
- vi. Provost Mendez was also a guest speaker. Provost discussed new security measures in place for faculty travel to China.
- vii. There was a concern regarding new buildings – lack of privacy and security. This has been brought to the attention of upper administration to see how infrastructure can be modified.

b. **Human Resources:**

- i. No updates.

c. **GPSGA:**

- i. No updates.

d. **Department of Wellness:**

- i. No updates.

e. **Student Government Association:**

- i. Speakers Board will host Victoria Justice tonight at 6pm in the Seretean Center. No Senate meeting this week due to this event. Senatorial elections close today at 5pm on CampusLink. Coat Drive going on currently; more details on SGA's Instagram page @okstatesga.

K. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. None.

L. **New Business:**

- a. RPP Proposal.
  - i. Four months ago, the RPP Committee was given Policy 3-0720 for review by the Council. If members would like to see marked changes, Justin Worley is happy to provide the review copy. The Staff Advisory Council will review the policy changes for the next thirty days and conduct a vote at the next monthly general meeting.

M. **Announcements:**

a. **Next Meeting:**

- i. **Date:** December 11, 2024; 1:15 – 3:30 p.m.
- ii. **Location:** 412 Student Union (Council Room)

N. **Adjournment**

