



Staff Advisory Council General Meeting Minutes

Staff Advisory Council met on
May 14, 2025 @ 1:15pm at
412 Student Union (Council Room).

STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL

- A. **Call to Order:** Sam Morse

- B. **Roll Call:** Sam Cypert
 - a. Members (In-Person): Aaron Lively, Adam Barnes, Amy Phipps, Angie Duckworth, Emily Billings, Justin Cypert-Worley, Kara Peters, Kim Howerton, Kimberly Meints, Natalie Noles, Nicole Hendricks, Ramitha Raja, Robert Raab, Roxanne Maynard, Sam Morse.
 - b. Members (Virtual): Olivia Long, Sam Cypert-Worley.
 - c. Guests (In-Person): N/A
 - d. Guests (Virtual): N/A
 - e. Regrets: Janell Hamilton, Josh Hawkins.

- C. **Approval of the Minutes:** Sam Morse
 - a. Motioned by: Sherri Buntin
 - b. Seconded by: Justin Cypert-Worley
 - c. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

- D. **Approval of the Agenda:** Sam Morse
 - a. Motioned by: Kim Howerton
 - b. Seconded by: Ramitha Raja
 - c. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

- E. **Special Guest Speaker(s):** Mike Beckner, OSU Chief of Police, Jim Hess, President of OSU, and Christa Louthan, Chief Human Resources Officer.
 - a. Mike Beckner
 - i. He gave a general update on the state of the department. There are 33 officers on the Stillwater campus, and some new ones coming on at Tulsa to bring them up to 8-9. They've also recently taken CHS security under their supervision. They want to develop a system-wide force so that they can share resources, negotiate for better contracts, and standardize policies and practices.
 - ii. They've hired a new trainer and hope to host external trainings on campus in the future. They also want to hire a Clery specialist for reporting.
 - iii. He sees the department's responsibility to be in keeping the campus safe and to mitigate risk. He wants to help everyone increase their situational awareness, which is very effective in reducing crimes like theft, which are the most common on campus. The crime log is viewable at <https://safety.okstate.edu/police/clery-act/activity-summaries.html>.

- iv. He wants to work more closely with other agencies. They did so very successfully at the Boys from Oklahoma concert. They are transitioning to a reporting and computer aided dispatch system (CAD) that will be shared with Payne County and all municipalities within the county (the City of Stillwater is already using this system). This will generally be partitioned off, but during an emergency or a game day, they can more easily share information and manage call intakes.
- v. He wants to bring more officers into the center of campus and make officers more familiar with individual campus buildings, so we should expect to see them more often. In the fall, they will host events for campus community members to get to know officers. He wants people to know his officers by name and feel comfortable calling them first. Anyone is welcome to call him directly.
- vi. As a reminder, all campus phones are routed to the campus dispatch after dialing 911.

b. Jim Hess

- i. He started his career in higher ed as a staff member and is very supportive of staff, which keep the university operational. He takes his role seriously and felt it was a call to duty to step into the interim and then permanent president role.
- ii. He wants to make sure that the campus culture reflects what the community wants it to be. He wants people to look forward to going to work, and that they feel hope, optimism, and security.
- iii. He wants people to reach out and tell him what he needs to know, not what he wants to hear. He will do his best to make us proud of OSU.
- iv. He wants to address pay among staff and faculty, but he needs to build up a plan. In the short term, that means removing positions that have not been filled in a long time so that the money from those budget lines can be used elsewhere. In the medium term, he wants to raise \$1 billion for a scholarship fund, which would give us a regular source of income that would cover the raises that we need (and potentially other uses as well).
- v. He considers the student experience to be pivotal to the work of the university, partly because they will be our biggest supporters, or detractors, after they leave the institution. He intends to help create a supportive atmosphere where people can share ideas without disrespecting one another or putting others in danger.
- vi. Multiple staff members shared stories of how President Hess has shown up to support students and staff already in his first few months.

c. Christa Louthan

- i. Christa spoke briefly about the services her team can offer to employees to help them manage difficult situations within the office. (I will add, there are many resources available for issues on and off campus through our Employee Assistance program. More info here: <https://hr.okstate.edu/benefits/guidanceresources.html>)

F. Officer Reports:

- a. **Treasurer:** Sherri Buntin
 - i. Sherri provided a current report on SAC financials. SAC is still waiting on further discussion regarding carryforward and funding for the next fiscal year.
- b. **Secretary:** Sam Cypert-Worley
 - i. No report.
- c. **Vice-Chair:** Kimberly Meints
 - i. STAR Awards
- d. **Chair:** Sam Morse
 - i. Sam gave several updates pertaining to projects and initiatives he is working on as Chair.

G. Reports of Standing Committees:

- a. **Rules, Policy, and Procedures:** Justin Cypert-Worley
 - i. Currently working through policy amendments being forwarded on from HR.
- b. **Communications Committee:** Kaitlin Little
 - i. Communications plan is in place for Staff Celebration Day and final marketing pushes will go out soon.
- c. **Awards and Recognition Committee:** Angie Duckworth and Sherri Buntin
 - i. The primary focus recently has been assisting with logistics of Staff Celebration Day. There will be giveaways and sponsored items at the event.
- d. **Events Committee:** Ramitha Raja
 - i. All logistics are in place for Staff Celebration Day, and the Events Committee is looking forward to the event.
- e. **Access, Community, and Engagement:** PENDING
 - i. No report.

H. Branch Campus Reports:

- a. **OSU-Tulsa:**
 - i. No report.
- b. **OSU-CHS (Center for Health Sciences):**
 - i. No report.
- c. **OSU-OKC (Oklahoma City):**
 - i. No report.
- d. **OSUIT-Okmulgee (Institute of Technology):**
 - i. No report.

I. Reports of University Committees:

- a. **Faculty Council:**
 - i. No report.
- b. **Human Resources:** Christa Louthan
 - i. Report provided earlier during guest speaker section.
- c. **GPSGA:** Sam Cypert-Worley for Melisa Echols
 - i. No report.

d. Department of Wellness:

i. No report.

e. Student Government Association: Sam Cypert-Worley for Melisa Echols

i. No report.

J. Unfinished Business:

a. None.

K. New Business:

a. None.

L. Announcements:

a. Next Meeting:

i. **Date:** June 18, 2025

ii. **Location:** Nancy Randolph Davis – Jorns Hall

iii. **Special Session – officer elections and appointment of new members*

b. **Staff Celebration Day** is next Tuesday! Please join us at the Wes Watkins Center between 11 am and 2 pm! We've posted the menu on our website. We'll have raffle prizes as well. We are also giving away one raffle prize to people who interact with our social media posts promoting the event, so look out for us on Facebook and Instagram. <https://sac.okstate.edu/events/staff-celebration-day.html>

c. As always, if you have a positive experience with a staff member and you'd like to give them a shout-out, please consider submitting a nomination for the **Star Award**. <https://sac.okstate.edu/awards/osu-stars/>

M. Adjournment

a. Motioned by: Justin Cypert-Worley

b. Seconded by: Kim Howerton