



# Staff Advisory Council General Meeting Minutes

## STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL

Staff Advisory Council will meet on

**October 8, 2025 @ 1:15pm | 460 Student Union**

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

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

B. **Roll Call:** Kimberly Howerton

In person: Aaron Lively, Adam Barnes, Amy Phipps, Angie Duckworth, Austin Hayes, Crystal Wilson, Emily Billings, Joshua Hawkins, Justin Cypert-Worley, Kara Peters, Kimberly Meints, Nicole Hendricks, Olivia Long, Peyton Duncan, Ramitha Raja, Roxanne Maynard, Sherri Buntin, Sam Morse, Sam Cypert-Worley, Kimberly Howerton, Natalie Noles, Melanie Bayles

On line, Joshua Hawkins, Robert Sloan (OSU-IT), Jennifer Moody from HR.

C. **Approval of the Minutes:** Sam Morse

August 2025 minutes approved without objections (Sam Cypert-Worley motioned to approve; motion seconded by Justin Cypert-Worley); September 2025 minutes approved with amendments: added Robert Rabb to roll call, title change (Kimberly Meints motioned to approve with amendments; motion seconded by Sam Cypert-Worley).

D. **Approval of the Agenda:** Sam Morse

Minutes needed correct to reflect room changed to 460; approved unanimously after motion by Justin Cypert-Worley to approve by unanimous consent; seconded by Melanie Bayless.

E. **Special Guest Speaker(s):**

**A. Susan Bain, Director of Benefits, OSU HR**

- New PlanSource platform for benefits enrollment will be used for open enrollment; salary tiers and premium adjustments discussed.
- Can scroll and see different vendors and will have educational videos and benefits
- Annual enrollment will have login from enrollment
- 2025 elections will roll over to 2026 if no changes are made. However, FSA/HSA contribution levels will clear out.
- Employees will need SSN and birthdate info for dependents
- Decision IQ is available; you do not have to use it when making health care decisions for 2026.
- Changes in the cost this year will be salary tier based; the increase in cost is due to the increase in payments from the self-funded insurance program.

**B. Dr. Jim Hess, President, OSU**

**🗉 President's Remarks (Dr. Jim Hess):**

Record enrollment (36,947 students) and housing challenges; plans to avoid off-campus leases next year.

**Advising Reform:** Begin planning for centralized academic advising and career advising improvements; initiate stakeholder discussions before January.

**Housing Strategy:** Continue analytical planning to avoid off-campus housing leases for 2026–27.

**Capital Campaign:** Prepare for launch of \$2B fundraising campaign next month, focusing on scholarship endowment that will change the university's long term sustainability by giving cash scholarships instead of tuition waivers to students.

**Health Insurance:** Implement premium adjustments with tiered impact based on salary; HR to finalize details. This change will reduce the negative balance for self-funded program which has been underwater for some time.

IT improvements: dashboards and system integration planned.

**F. Officer Reports:**

**A. Treasurer:** Natalie Noles

- i. Nothing to report

**B. Secretary:** Kimberly Howerton

- i. Guests please make sure you have signed the log
- ii. Members, check the roster to be sure your name is correct and let me know if you would prefer a nickname or change on your table tent

**C. Vice-Chair:** Sam Cypert-Worley

- i. STAR Awards

**D. Chair:** Sam Morse

- i. Most was covered in president's section
- ii. Reminder, if you have not yet, met your staff member survey; used by communications committee as profiles to meet you
- iii. SAC lunch for tomorrow; Just a come and go; chit chat and have lunch (Ramitha has organized)

**G. Reports of Standing Committees:**

**A. Rules, Policy, and Procedures:** Justin Cypert-Worley

- i. Fill vacancies for two position next month

**B. Communications Committee:** Aaron Lively

- i. Oct 29-28 can also take photo if needed when they are doing DSA photos

**C. Awards and Recognition Committee:** Sherri Buntin & Angie Duckworth

- i. DSA Awards scheduled for Dec. 10; Dec 10 will be at same time as the meeting; only date available for the ballroom.

**D. Events Committee:** Roxanne Maynard

- i. Holiday Charitable Drive. Details forthcoming

**E. Access, Community, and Engagement:** Kimberly Meints

- i. Caregiving.okstate.edu
  - Yay! Caregivers site is live! Thanks to Aaron for including it in the newsletter. Another thank you to Kaitlin Little for helping us get a vanity URL: caregiving.okstate.edu. Over 200 people have accessed the site so far.

- The ACE committee will be sharing a copy of the Accessible Events Guide with the Events and Awards committees soon. We'd like them to take a look as they prepare for events and let us know what they think.

F. **Staff Salaries:** Robert Raab

- i. Tomorrow, SSC is meeting with the chair of the faculty salary and compensation committee; we are going to learn from them to streamline what we are going to do to present

H. **Branch Campus Reports:**

A. **OSU-Tulsa:**

- i.

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

- i.

C. **OSU-OKC (Oklahoma City):**

- i.

D. **OSUIT-Okmulgee (Institute of Technology):**

- i. United Way fundraisers

I. **Reports of University Committees:**

A. **Faculty Council:**

- i. Not yet met

B. **Human Resources:**

- i. Christa Louthan
- ii. Thank you so much for the input for the benefit strategy; allowed a more robust FAQ. Really helped put out a holistic community package; IRA and student ledger/academic ledger can see trends

C. **GPSGA:**

- i. New president
  1. Travel Assistance for grad students to attend conference, workshop, seminar; can apply until the end of this month
  2. Conferences announced later – applicants can file for the Exception to Travel Assistance
- ii. General assembly held last Wednesday

D. **Department of Wellness:**

- i. No report

E. **Student Government Association:**

- i. No report

J. **Unfinished Business:**

- i. None

K. **New Business:**

- i. None

L. **Announcements:**

- A. SAC lunch tomorrow

**B. Next Meeting:**

- i. Date: November 12, 2025; 1:15 – 3 p.m.
- ii. Location: 412 Student Union (Council Room)

**M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Sherri Buntin; motion was seconded by Nicole Hendricks; passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned.