



# WKU STAFF SENATE

Monthly Meeting – October 2, 2024 (10:00 AM) DSU 2081

**View Full Meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA8a7yA57LM>

**Call to Order:** 10:01 AM CST

**Roll Call:** 12 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**

Michael Hobbs, Mahurin Honors College

Roy Long, Environmental Health and Safety

Katie Muchmore, Office of Sponsored Programs

**Guest Speaker:**

- **Kent Johnson, Military Student Services Director**

Senator Johnson shared information about his office and the services they provide to students. The office supports military-connected students from initial inquiry through graduation, aiding with admissions, benefits, and support services. They serve approximately 1,200 military-connected students, including veterans, active duty, reservists, and military dependents. They give education benefits assistance including guidance on using GI Bill benefits, tuition assistance, and military tuition rates. Staff are encouraged to refer military-connected students to Military Student Services particularly with handling class withdrawals, drop dates, and degree planning. The office also participates in recruitment efforts by assisting in recruiting military students and navigating military-specific advertising rules.

- **Dr. Karl Laves, Associate Director - Counseling Center, Staff Ombudsperson:**

Dr. Laves joined the Staff Senate meeting via Zoom to talk about his role as the Staff Ombudsperson at the University. The Ombudsperson is a neutral, confidential support system for staff at WKU. He highlighted how the Ombudsperson position doesn't hold authority or advocate directly, but instead offers a safe, non-judgmental space to help individuals navigate workplace issues. This role, he shared, was created by a Staff Council (predecessor to Staff Senate) recommendation to ensure faculty and staff feel protected and heard without fear of repercussion or exposure.

Dr. Laves also spoke about staff mental health and work-life balance and resources available to staff like the Employee Assistance Program, which provides faculty and staff with access to local mental health professionals, and WKU Health Services for medication management.

With his upcoming retirement, Dr. Laves reflected on the future of the ombudsperson role, suggesting it might be an opportunity to consider how best to continue supporting faculty and staff in an evolving environment.

**Officer, Committee, and Staff Regent Reports**

- **Staff Regent – Jennifer Hammonds:**

- There was a special called board meeting where the University's football complex was named in honor of Harold and Juanita Little, recognizing their years of support and generosity to the Athletics program.
  - The Board of Regents' next meeting is a committee meeting on October 18.
  - Regent Hammonds invites any staff members with questions or concerns to contact her.
- **Communications – Deanna Jenkins:** No Report
  - **Treasurer – Andria Henry**  
Treasurer's Report  
  
October 2024  
  
AS OF 09/30/2024, FY25:  
  
E&G Index – 100600
    - Starting Balance = \$3,700.00
    - Additions = \$0.00
    - Disbursements = \$167.71
    - Ending Balance = \$3,532.29  
 WKUF Account (Staff Senate Excellence Fund) – 1108600
    - Starting Balance = \$2,140.12
    - Additions = \$15.00
    - Disbursements = \$0.00
    - Ending Balance = \$2,155.12  
 CHF Account (Book Scholarship) – 800139
    - Starting Balance = \$1,834.84
    - Additions = \$15.00
    - Disbursements = \$0.00
    - Ending Balance = \$1,849.84
  - **Technology – Kent Johnson:** No Report
  - **Parliamentarian- Jordan Ray:** No Report (absent)
  - **Secretary – Morgan Moran**
    - Senator Moran provided an update on the September 13 Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting primarily focused on permit sales, revenue, and bus ridership statistics. The main update is a pilot program for digital parking permits. The new system uses license plate recognition technology. This initiative aims to replace traditional hang tags, allowing permits to be verified through license plates instead. Parking and Transportation is seeking participation from staff, particularly those with FS1 and FS2 permits, to test the new system. Anyone interested in joining the pilot or with questions, please contact Parking and Transportation at [transportation@wku.edu](mailto:transportation@wku.edu).
  - **Vice-Chair – Leslie Vanderpool**
    - The Workforce Committee continues to seek mentors and mentees for their mentorship program. If you're new to campus and would like guidance from someone with WKU experience, or if you're a seasoned employee willing to share your knowledge with new staff, please reach out to the committee. They're actively working to connect new employees with experienced mentors for support and knowledge-sharing.

- **Chair – Tanya Vincent:** No Report (absent)

**Old Business**

- The Staff Senate recently hosted its first meet-and-greet event for WKU staff on September 17, recognizing staff for their years of service. The turnout was strong, and there was a great show of support and appreciation for staff members' dedication to WKU.
- The Staff Engagement Survey results are expected to be finalized and available soon.

**New Business**

- Senate Spring Meet and Greet potential dates: The senate discussed dates and locations for the Staff Senate Spring Meet and Greet. March 11 from 10 AM-11:30 AM was agreed upon for the next Meet and Greet. Senator Henry is checking to see if Nite Class at DSU is available for that date and time.

**Public Comment:** None

**Announcements & Notable Events:**

- Open enrollment for 2025 Benefits is Oct. 14 to Oct. 25, 2024.
- Next Staff Senate Meeting: Nov. 6, 2024, 10:00 AM.

**Adjournment:** 11:05 AM CST