

Meeting Minutes - SSU Staff Council

May 12, 2026

Call to Order

A meeting of the SSU Staff Council was held on May 12, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 1:01pm.

Attendance: 63 participants

Chair's Report

- Kyle reported continued efforts to improve communication across the organization, including communication between departments and leadership levels.
- Opportunities remain to strengthen communication processes, channels, and styles.

Administration & Finance Report

- Stacey requested an update on telecommuting guidance. Chandra reported that employee and manager feedback is being reviewed, including concerns about uncertainty, consistency, transparency, and campus communication.
- Updated telecommuting information was expected the following week, including parameters, expectations, and the process employees can use to request telecommuting based on operational needs.
- Human Resources has updated its webpage and is working toward a broader information repository for employees and managers, including best practices for managing remote work environments.
- SFBRN is operational, and Interim Vice President Jeff Wilson will transition back to San Francisco State University.
- Phase 2 planning for Human Resources and payroll is underway.
- Hope Ortiz asked for clarification on how employees should move forward with telecommuting requests. Chandra reiterated that upcoming guidance would clarify both the parameters and request process.

Sonoma State Enterprises Update

- LoriAnn and Jennifer Haynes provided an overview of Sonoma State Enterprises (SSE), the auxiliary corporation that supports services not eligible for state funding, including the bookstore, dining/kitchens, vending, and campus printing.
- Net proceeds from SSE support the university. Housing and meal-plan declines have affected revenue.
- Bookstore updates include new colors and branded merchandise partnerships, including Hello Kitty and planned Snoopy merchandise.
- SSE is increasing community use of dining spaces. Recent examples included a Rancho Cotate basketball team lunch coordinated with Student Affairs and an English Department trivia night in Lobos.
- Vending plans include fresh-food and coffee machines for Stevenson, along with expanded catering options and new menus. An open house is planned to allow the campus community to sample selections.

Conference Programming and Partnerships

- Discussion continued around expanding conference programming into the academic year and the potential financial impact for campus units.
- Neil explained that academic-year conferences would likely be professional or academic in nature, smaller in scope, and generally serve approximately 200-300 participants.

- Revenue generated from conferences supports areas such as Housing, SSE food services, and campus operations.
- John noted that campus spaces compare favorably with other event venues in Sonoma County.
- The Seawolf Bundle and continued collaboration with Associated Students were also discussed.

Good of the Order

No additional items were recorded.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:56pm.

Kelly Clark

Secretary



Date of Approval

5/25/24