

Meeting Minutes - SSU Staff Council

September 8, 2026

Call to Order

A meeting of the SSU Staff Council was held via Zoom. Staff Council board members present included:

- Kyle Falbo
- Sadie Pettit
- Aidan Humrich
- John Lynch
- Kelly Clark

Attendance: 50

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Standing Report from Administration & Finance

- Chandra shared upcoming campus events and activities, including Big Blue Weekend during the first weekend of October, ongoing coach recruitments connected with the return of athletics, and Inspire Sonoma beginning September 15 with Olympic gold medalist Haleigh Washington as a featured speaker.
- Additional campus activities highlighted included a student make-a-thon and photography exhibits at the art gallery running through October 17. Staff were encouraged to participate in campus programs and events.

Staff Council Election Results and Committee Appointments

- Megan Kane was announced as the Academic Senate staff representative for a three-year term.
- Bryan Mischke - Alternative Transportation Committee
- Sara Jordan - Campus Planning and University Space Advisory Committee
- Maddie Peterson - President's Advisory for Campus Safety
- Jennifer Haynes - Sonoma State Enterprises, Inc. Board and Audit Committee
- Carly Davis – Staff Representative to the Administrative Search Advisory Committee for Vice President of Advancement
- Kyle Falbo - WASC Accreditation Committee staff representative and Honorary Doctorate Committee
- In response to a question about honorary doctorate nominations, Kyle clarified that the committee does not create a list of candidates but makes recommendations on candidates.

Academic Senate Report

- Megan Kane provided an update from the Academic Senate meeting. Topics included a new parliamentarian, emeritus eligibility approvals, the WASC special visit, the Common Read program, new degree programs, campus and athletics updates, police training opportunities, e-bike/e-scooter issues, and the farm workers mural re-envisioning process.

Chair's Report

- Kyle discussed becoming more familiar with campus leadership and emphasized the importance of opening lines of communication, asking questions, and increasing staff engagement in conversations about the university's direction and identity.
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- The university received a WASC Notice of Concern in February related to transparency, decision-making, and erosion of shared governance. Kyle is serving on a steering committee that will collect evidence and staff feedback on these areas.
- Staff were encouraged to communicate both positive and negative changes they observe in campus communication and decision-making.
- Kyle noted continued conversations about the SFBRN migration and observed increased communication from leadership on the topic.
- Meaningful staff participation in shared governance was emphasized, including ensuring that staff serving on committees are heard and able to participate rather than serving only as placeholders.

Staff Representation and Shared Governance

- The group discussed whether service on university committees and at hearings feels valuable to staff members and noted that some Academic Senate vacancies may present opportunities for staff participation.
- Aidan shared that committee service creates opportunities to meet colleagues across departments and divisions and can strengthen cross-campus connections.
- John noted that committee participation provides a better understanding of how the university operates and gives staff broader institutional context.
- Sadie shared that she had previously felt left out while serving on a committee and expressed support for efforts to elevate staff voices and make participation more meaningful.
- Kyle invited staff to suggest speakers or topics they would like Staff Council to bring to future meetings.

CSU Systemwide Staff Council Initiative

- Kyle provided an update on efforts to establish a CSU systemwide staff council. A proposal was presented to the CSU Board of Trustees in January, but no formal response has been received.
- Staff representatives raised the issue again during public comment at a summer Board of Trustees meeting and continue to communicate with the statewide Academic Senate.
- The goal is to establish meaningful staff representation at the system level, including authority and representation before the Board of Trustees.

Good of the Order

No additional items were recorded.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Kelly Clark

Secretary



Date of Approval 9/16/26