



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Staff Senate Meeting January 29, 2025

Senators attending in person:

- Robert Bridges
- Hadley Cottingham
- Becca Cox
- Joshua Davis
- Molly First
- Lindsey Jefferson
- Amiee Kane
- Mark Kirkley
- Lynn Kunkel
- Melissa Lappe
- Savannah Lockman
- Karen McDonnell
- Qing Qing Norris
- Kelley Price
- Susanne Rothery
- Donald Spencer
- Patrick Steimer
- Trudi Vaughan
- Jacqueline Winters-Allen

Senators attending online:

- Sanjoosh Akkineni
- Carla Budinsky
- Amonte Hampton
- Andrew McCanless
- Shelina Munoz
- Caitlin O'Kelley
- Claire Rutte

Proxies:

- Orië Thornton – Proxy for Dana King

Guest: Dr. Karin Scarpinato, VP of Research

- Approval of December 2024 meeting minutes
 - Missing some attendance (Susanne Rothery, Amiee Kane, Michael Stephens as proxy for Savannah Lockman)
 - Motion to approve and seconded with above edits
- Guest speaker: Dr. Karin Scarpinato, VP of Research
 - 80 people in the Office of Research in different units
 - Research is 2 parts: knowledge creation and innovation/improvement
 - Grant support includes a lot of legal and compliance components
 - IRB protocols in place make sure human research is done properly
 - Separate ethics group for animal research
 - Research development helps faculty who have an idea but need to develop it to apply for funding
 - Staff play an important part in research administration; we are all one team
 - Current grant funding issues with Executive Orders similar to a government shutdown; looking into how to mitigate it, a lot of uncertainty
 - Prepared to go to Dr. Schwaig for bridge funding

Old Business:

- Rob Bridges: We received a proposal for KSU enate polo shirt and t-shirts
 - Softstyle t-shirt, micropique for polos
 - Questions:
 - Can we get samples of sizes to make sure everyone orders a size that fits?
 - Can we get men's and women's cuts?
 - Can we get color other than black? Concern they will be too hot.
- Fundraising:
 - Suzanne Rothery: I've been getting our accounts lined up. We may finally have access to reports and spending. We have not awarded a Star Staff of the Semester or a scholarship recently. We would like to do Star Staff this semester and award a scholarship; where is the scholarship application? I will be setting up a meeting with Jessica Redding to advise.
 - We only have enough money for the scholarship this year, so we need to raise more money for next year's scholarship. We need ideas for fundraising.
 - Owllympics? The problem is that students/faculty aren't around at that time.
 - Pay to pie your favorite Staff Senator in the face? Faculty volunteers?
 - If we want to reward staff, we need to keep raising money.
 - Giving Day is Wednesday, April 16. Last year there were 5 donations to the Staff Senate scholarship. There will be setups for photos that day that Departments and the Staff Senate can use for fundraising.
- We are not doing Staff Appreciation Week. Appreciation events will be split up through the year
- Staff Appreciation Awards: the deadline has been extended to Friday, January 31. It's a great opportunity to recognize someone in your Department.

New Business

- Recommendation: a Welcome Committee, a group of people who can welcome new staff and make sure they have what they need. Rob Bridges will send out an email asking for volunteers.
 - What about a monthly "welcome" meeting? We can put info about it in the welcome letters to invite new staff.
- Coffee Talks: Not many people came to the December 2024 event at the Marietta Campus.
 - Maybe holidays were a factor?

Open Forum

- Suzanne Rothery: We need volunteers for the Field Research lab. Info about the KSU Food Forest at <https://www.kennesaw.edu/research/centers-facilities/ksu-field-station/current-research.php>.
 - Hadley Cottingham: It's very early in the process but we've been in contact with the mayor of a NE Georgia city who is interested in creating a food forest in their area. If they build it out and have a day to work on it, would anyone be interested in helping? It's a 2-hour drive but we would be working directly with a city that would benefit from KSU's research. Let me know if you're interested.
- CARE Services are very appreciative of the help we gave them in December 2024. Thanks to those who volunteered!

- KSU Day of Service will be held Saturday, March 29. The website is through Student Affairs but faculty/staff encouraged to participate (<https://www.kennesaw.edu/student-affairs/involvement/student-volunteerism/day-of-service.php>). Registration starts on Monday, February 24 so we have plenty of time to figure out how Staff Senate can be a part of it.
 - Can we have our own Staff Senate event?
 - Volunteers need to complete a waiver.

- The Staff Senate picture we took will be sent to Statcomm for our website.

- Motion to close meeting made and seconded
 - Meeting adjourned.