

Agenda
Kent State University Staff Council
May 13, 2025

Welcome-Alice Kopunovitz

Minutes-Virginia Wright

Approval of April 8, 2025, minutes

Shared Governance Update-Craig Berger

Committee Reports

- E-Board-Alice Kopunovitz
- Finance Committee-Nikki Mills
- Communications Committee-Ruth Pittman
- Elections & Bylaws Review Committee-Shaunte Rouse
 - Update Regarding Elections
 - Update on Bylaw Changes
- Membership/Activities/Professional Development Committee-Kara Barnett
- Advocacy Committee-Susan Kieklak/Rachel Rundo
 - Bullying Update

Kent State University Staff Council Meeting

May 13, 2025

Teams Meeting

The meeting began at 2:00 pm. In attendance: Kara Barnett, Craig Berger, Erin Beseda, Maegan Blake, Heidi Covan, Paul Creed III, Anita Francisco, Tiffany Griffin, Crystal Hamon, Aimee Johnson, Susan Kieklak, Keturah Kneuss, Alice Kopunovitz, Jaclyn Macomber, Katie Mattise, Darcy McBride, Nikki Mills, Monica Morson, Barbara Ozimek, Ruth Pittman, Meagan Richards, Shaunte Rouse, Rachel Rundo, Cheryl Slusarczyk, Megan Smeznik, Mariah Taylor, Jen Villanueva, Virginia Wright, Judith Yasenosky.

Welcome and Announcements-Alice Kopunovitz

Alice welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes-Alice Kopunovitz

- Alice called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025, meeting. Ruth Pittman made a motion, and Crystal Hamon seconded the motion.

Shared Governance Update-Craig Berger

- Met with Amoaba Gooden and she had some good advice
 - Benefits to the staff
 - Benchmarking work
 - Shared governance--focusing on how to build strong relationships with administrators
 - Staff Council to have place in policy with undergraduate and graduate students and Faculty Senate.
- Polishing proposal with hope to submit to Dr. Gooden by the end of the month for feedback followed by presentation to the President's Cabinet
- Documents in Teams files
- More meetings scheduled. If anyone is interested in being more involved, contact Craig Berger, Crystal Hamon, or Megan Smeznik

Q-Will documents be shared with Staff Council before shared with Dr. Gooden?

A-The governance committee is open to opinions. It should be shared before going to the President's Cabinet. There is a shared folder that everyone should have access to in Teams. Everything they are working on is in the folder.

Q-What is the timeline?

A-the polished document will be in the folder by the end of the month. Dr. Gooden is expecting the document by the end of June. Can post message in Teams before sending to Dr. Gooden.

Committee Reports

- **E-Board-Alice Kopunovitz**
 - Retreat Update
 - Scheduled June 17 8:30 am, program starts at 9 am with coffee or lunch in 107 Heer Hall.
 - Nick Gattozzi, Executive Director of Government and Community Relations, will talk about politics at the state level and all the changes impacting Kent State University.
 - Someone from Wellness will talk about ways to support co-workers
 - Will have break and activities
 - RSVP for food (probably late lunch). Note if have food allergies

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Teams Meeting

- Trying to get Mark Polatajko to come in July to talk about shared governance and ways to help us be more visible. Also trying to schedule Todd Diacon or Melody Tankersley, but they want to come in fall (September or October)
- If no objections, moving November 11, 2025, meeting to November 18, 2025 since November 11 is Holiday.
- Working with Dr. Gooden regarding service anniversary awards for staff (cash vs. catalog items)
- **Finance Committee - Nikki Mills**
 - Request for OSCHE membership approved
 - Sent reminder to committee chairs to turn in budget requests
- **Communications Committee-Ruth Pittman**
 - Met March 20
 - Still working on website
 - Discussing dedicated section of Faculty/Staff News

There was discussion among Staff Council members about various communication ideas. Ruth suggested that ideas be sent to her for discussion/posting

- **Elections & Bylaws Review Committee-Shaunte Rouse**
 - Shaunte thanked everyone for their work on the Bylaws.
 - Second meeting has been cancelled because we got through all the questions.
 - Last call document discussion Monday morning.
 - Document to be sent to Executive Board for approval, then to members for voting.
 - Working on operating procedures to put into the next round.
 - Note all minutes and agendas in the Bylaws channel in Teams
- **Membership/Activities/Professional Development Committee-Kara Barnett**
 - Going through Bylaws with Committee. Submitted specific recommendations for updates:
 - May change eligibility requirements and can vote on that later
 - Discussing bringing back an alternate pool and ideas.
 - Submitted budget request for travel to Wellness Fairs, tshirts, meals at the dining halls for Staff Council members to gather
 - Completing proposal for Staff Shout Out to send to Kelsey Tomlinson, then Executive Board and then Dr. Gooden for approval

Q-Is anything in the proposal for Regional Campuses since they do not have access to Dining Services?
A-Discussion has been that they don't want us to have gift cards. If someone has ideas, please send to Kara Barnett.

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Teams Meeting

Q-What was submitted regarding the meal request?

A-30 people once a semester (1 fall and 1 spring) for working lunch

- **Advocacy Committee-Susan Kieklak**

- Biggest thing committee is currently working on is anti-bullying policy (with Amoaba Gooden, Faculty Senate, and Staff Council Executive Board). Appointment with Amoaba Gooden was cancelled. Next appointment is first or second week in June.

There was discussion regarding options for moving the suggested policy forward, timing of the policy with T28, and if graduate students and faculty would be included. It was noted that the current file in the Advocacy Teams file may not be the latest version. Susan will update and post when available for review.

There was also discussion about a recent resolution that passed Faculty Senate regarding new scheduling restrictions. Some members were going to try to obtain information to send to Staff Council.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:01 pm