



## July 10, 2025 Meeting Agenda 1:15pm on Zoom

**Members Present:** Amy Secretan, Mandy Webster, Derek O'Connell, Paisley Hartman, Heidi Verticchio, Daniel Freburg, Melissa Ramirez-Osorio, Katy Strzepek, Amke De Boes,

**Members Excused:** Shannon Darling, Stuart Palmer, Marci Rockey, Nikki Brauer, Cindy Lotz

**Guests Present:**

**Speakers:** Brad Franke (no show)

- **Approval of Agenda**
  - Motion: Heidi Verticchio
  - Second: Amke De Boes
- **Approval of Minutes 6/12/2025**
  - Motion: Amke De Boes
  - Second: Derek O'Connell
  -
- **Approval of 5/22/2025**
  - Motion: Derek O'Connell
  - Second: Heidi Verticchio
- **New business**
  - Exec board elections in August
    - Amy and Heidi rolling off, send self-nominations to them for Chair and Treasurer
  - Fall meeting schedule
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, or every other week?
    - Stick with our original plan, Shannon will send out meeting invites
  - "Invitation to Participate in Financial Planning and Analysis System Vendor Demonstrations" was received by some council members but not all
- **Old business (2023-2024 List)**

**Brainstorming Topics List (On-going)**

  - Staff compensation/salary (salary compression, equity, and counteroffers)
  - Review of Master Plan
  - Pedestrian safety
    - <https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2025/04/illinois-state-and-town-of-normal-launch-pedestrian-roadway-campus-safety-initiative-ask-for-feedback/>
  - Town/Gown assessment
  - Faculty/staff release time policy for civic engagement
  - Connected issues relating to visibility, communication, programming
  - Develop systemic process for programming events
  - Advanced planning and sharing of ideas across divisions for flexible work in summer months

- Staff Survey results
- AP/CS Council Merger
- **Chair Remarks** – Amy Secretan
  - Meeting president next week, send Amy topics
- **Treasurer's Report** – Heidi Verticchio
  - Balance of 207.22 for FY 2025. This is after paying for all costs associated with the AP/CS ice cream event in May.
  - Opening balance of \$2000 for FY 26.
    - Lots of people rolling off council – save for plaques - especially considering that this is potentially the last year of a separate AP council
- **Human Resources Report** – Cindy Lotz
  - None
- **Representative Reports**
  - **Awards** – Melissa Ramirez-Osorio
    - Process will start next semester
  - **Academic Senate** – Stuart Palmer
    - None
  - **Campus Communications Committee** – Amy Secretan
    - Next Monday meeting to start writing next letter
  - **Foundation** – Heidi Verticchio
    - We met on Friday, June 20th. President welcomed and thanked all for their work. Based on the 2% hold back, the hiring freeze and other measures, we are on track to close the year with a balanced budget demonstrating that these measures were effective. He thanked Foundation for a robust year of fundraising stressing the importance of those dollars for the University to continue to do good work. He indicated that in the upcoming year we will focus on maintaining this balanced budget. He mentioned the impact of the faculty Union indicating that we came to an agreement in 14 months as opposed to the average 19-24 months it typically takes. He stressed that the hiring freeze while painful allowed us to maintain positions without letting employees go. He is interested in determining what ISU does excellently -- we do great things but what can we be excellent at and be sure to market that. He was specifically asked how faculty/staff morale was on campus. He said not good. He expressed that he understands why this is and he is aware of this and continues to keep this top of mind. The Foundation had a record year of raising funds -- 43 million. We are also now in the silent stages of a new fundraising campaign. It will not be a public campaign for a couple of years. Overall this campaign will be a 5 year campaign as opposed to the 7-year Redbirds Rising campaign previously held.
      - Follow up question “What was the reaction to the campus morale question?”  
Unsurprised
  - **ISU Annuitants Association** – Nikki Brauer
    - Annuitants Association will hold a November / December lunch meeting.
    - New Officer slate and meetings. Meetings are now held quarterly rather than bi-monthly.
- **Committee Reports**

- **Merger Working Group** – Amy Secretan & Derek O’Connell
  - **Derek has drafted Staff Council Constitution and Bylaws and shared with working group**
  - **CS Council will work to solicit more CS review from their council**
  - Moving forward, volunteer groups will come up with the next draft, then those will go to CS and AP councils for, hopefully, final review. The last step is Senate review.
- **Elections** – Marci Rockey
  - **None**
- **Programming** – Katy Strzepek & Amke De Boes
  - Planning will start soon with a continued focus on creating events where people can connect.
- **Communication** – Mandy Webster
  - No July newsletter but there was a spotlight which will be included in the August newsletter
  - Newsletter deadlines are around the middle of each month for the following newsletter
- **Scholarship** – Derek O’Connell
  - Committees completed reviews of 5 submissions and awarded scholarships to all five who were deserving, currently double-checking eligibility before announcing publicly
- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives** – Amy Secretan
  - Monitoring campus culture
  - Katie shared that APLU puts out some good info on legislative updates and some are related to EDI funding: [Washington Update - APLU](#)  
[KEY RESOURCE: APLU CHART COMPARING RECONCILIATION BILL PROVISIONS](#)
- **Parking Advisory** – Mike Regilio
  - No updates
- **University Updates**
  - Questions/continued conversation about red safety phones on campus
  - Question about the location of AEDs on campus and training options
- **Adjournment**
  - Motion:
    - Mike Regilio
  - Second:
    - Heidi Verticchio

**Next Meeting: August 28, 2025 – 1:15-3pm – location TBD**