

Staff Senate Meeting

July 22, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

[Join us via Zoom](#)

1. Standing Items

- a. Call to order
- b. Approval of Agenda
- c. Chancellor Team Update - N/A
- d. Provost Team Update - Provost Ghassan Kridli
 - i. State budget approved
 - ii. Authorization to renovate CIS building, oldest building on campus
 - iii. Make sure to bring issues related to students to the university's attention for enrollment
 - iv. Major focus on enrollment this year
 1. Outcomes
 2. Employability
 3. Information from alumni about careers
 4. Affordability
 - v. Final exams are being modified for student wellbeing
 1. Breaks between exams
 2. One of two longest finals in the state
- e. HR Update - Lisa Copeland
 - i. Thanks to staff satisfaction survey participants, increase in responses
 - ii. Positive trends compared to 2023, results may vary based on unit
 - iii. Unit leads will receive information soon on staff satisfaction survey
 - iv. One time merit eligible payments have been approved
 1. Union members not eligible
 - v. Chancellors barbeque is coming up in August, please RSVP
 - vi. Staff meetings scheduled for Provost search
 - vii. TOA days - for non-bargained employees, three days preceding thanksgiving and two days preceding Christmas
 1. Question raised on if it should be a remote week for bargained for employees - Provost discussions have started, will decide soon so that employees can plan ahead.
 - viii. Scavenger hunt - August 5th 10:30am-12pm
 - ix. Kelly Schester and Jessica Calderon from HR will be doing work study hiring training
 - x. Reminder peak hiring period is coming up
 - xi. Question: What went into the choice to exclude bargained for members?
 1. Needs to be bargained for by union, was not brought up at meeting
 2. TOA is only on our campus, so it is not university wide program
 3. TOA days started in response to not receiving raises
- f. ITS Update - Carrie Shumaker - Rick Michalski
 - i. Migration away from WebFocus reporting tool
 1. July 1st migration complete to Business Objects

2. Link:
<https://umdearborn.edu/institutional-research-and-effectiveness/data-and-dashboards/business-objects>
 3. You can request access through this link, and use tutorials
 4. Decommissioning WebFocus, but everything is backed up if something is needed
- g. Student Government Update - Rupinder Singh
 - i. Not available
 - h. Dept of Public Safety - Lt. Justin Berent
 - i. Leadership transition: Chief Tennis is moving on, new Interim Chief Patrick Maguire
 - ii. Gearing up for upcoming year with student influx
 - i. Budget Update - Nick Capul
 - i. Michelle to make sure an update is sent

2. Staff Senate Committee Updates

- a. Staff Development - Seat Open
 - i. Grant cycle closed, data collection and final report in progress
 - ii. Members: Delia Patterson, Sierra Stockwell, Gaadeh Abouarabi , Sam Heintz
- b. Parliamentary - Julie Faust
 - i. 2026 Election Results
 - ii. Members: Rachel Buzzeo, Michelle Fallscheer, Nada Bachir, Rich Durant, Celia Robinson, Bill Fluharty
- c. Communication - Brendan Nearing
 - i. Staff Senate Newsletter
 - ii. Members: Tom Wesley, Andy Dean, Nick Capul, Holly Martinez Cookson
- d. Hospitality/Staff Engagement - Kelly Robinson
 - i. Members: Kelly Robinson, Bryan Earl, Bryan Earl, Bill Fluharty, Andy Dean
- e. Staff Recognition - Donna Kerry
 - i. Members: Donna Kerry, Danielle Borum, Elspeth Muzzin, Kara Feyes, Sam Heintz
- f. Ad Hoc - Sierra Stockwell
 - i. Sub-committee interest meeting
 - ii. Members: Sierra Stockwell, Nada Bachir, Bryan Earl, Lori Ormsby, Rich Durant, Julie Faust, Michelle Fallscheer, Celia Robinson

3. Announcements and Dates

- A committee of Dearborn staff is planning a **USU Fall Welcome event** for mid-September. Keep an eye out for more details, email dbouavichith@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved in the planning process!
- Staff Senate Meeting dates (adjusted) - 7/22, 8/26 (8/19), 9/23, 10/28, 11/25 (11/18), 12/23 (12/16), 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26 retreat 6/23
- We want to hear from you! Do you have anything you'd like to share today?
 - [Share your ideas](#) for future meeting topics, bringing people together and improving staff morale.
- [Sign up](#) to receive emails from external relations (Reporter, Chancellor).
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