ORIENTATION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 10, 2025 | 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Great Plains Room | Nebraska East Union

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Staff Senate meeting as corrected by those participating. These are provisional and subject to change until approved at the September 11meeting.

12:30 p.m. Senator and Affiliate Member Luncheon 1:15 p.m. Meeting called to order

Jessie Brophy, Staff Senate Vice President for Internal Affairs

Land acknowledgment

Approval of the May 8th meeting minutes

Recognition of Co -Chair of Bylaws Committee – Doug Pellatz, serving as Parliamentarian advisor.

**Welcoming Remarks**

Jessie Brophy - Staff Senate Vice President for Internal Affairs

Jordan Gonzales - Staff Senate President via Video Message

A Thank You was extended to Executive Committee and Committee Co-Chairs

1:25 p.m. Leadership Recognition Awards presented by Joann Ross, Coordinator and Executive Secretary

The Leadership Legacy Award recognizes the transformational leadership, service, and advocacy of elected and appointed officers of the Staff Senate.  This award embodies the belief that leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and ensuring that impact lasts long after your term ends. Recipients of this award include:

* Jessie Brophy, Vice President for Internal Affairs
* Jerri Harner, Vice President for External Affairs
* Morgan Green McConnell, Secretary
* Sara Haake, Past President and this year’s Executive Advisor

The Servant-Leadership Award recognizes the exceptional leadership, service, and advocacy of elected committee co-chairs who served for the entire duration of the Senate session.  As Jordan mentioned in his Presidential Remarks earlier, committee co-chairs organize and help coordinate the bulk of the work within the Staff Senate.  Recipients of this award include:

* + Bylaws Committee Co-Chairs: Doug Pellatz and Lisa Vonfeldt
  + Communications Committee Co-Chairs: Derek McConnell and Alisa Smith
  + Elections Committee Co-Chairs: Joan Kunzman and Stephanie Hanson
  + Liaison Committee Co-Chairs: Regina Flowers and Amy Ort
  + Personnel Affairs Committee Co-Chairs: Jenn Rutt and Casey Seger-Franklin
  + Recognition Committee Co-Chairs: Carrie Jackson and Hilary Butler

1:30 p.m. Chancellor’s Remarks (via Video Message)

Dr. Rodney Bennett

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor

1:35 p.m. Parliamentary Procedure Workshop Using Robert’s Rules of Order

Doug Pellatz, District 3

Senator & Member of the Bylaws Committee

2:05 p.m. Break

**2:20 p.m. Officer Elections**

Facilitated by Erica Radach, Senator & Member of the Elections Committee

President: Jessie Brophy, as the only candidate, was elected by acclamation.

VP for Internal Affairs: Jerri Harner, as the only candidate, was elected by acclamation.

VP for External Affairs: Candidates were Morgan Green McConnell and Regina Flowers. Morgan Green McConnell was elected by paper ballot.

Secretary: Doug Pellatz, as the only candidate, was elected by acclamation.

2:50 p.m. Committee Assignments: were announced by the newly elected Staff Senate President Jessie Brophy, District 6

2:55 p.m. Break

3:10 p.m. New Business:

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Committee Hibernation, Section X.7.2: The Bylaws Committee introduced a motion to add Section X.7.2 and its subsections to the bylaws. This addition would provide a formal process for hibernating a standing committee of the Staff Senate. After brief discussion, the motion passed.

Parliamentary Advisor, Section X.7.1.3.2.D: The Bylaws Committee introduced a motion to amend Section X.7.1.3.2.D to allow a senator to maintain their voting rights during meetings when they are serving as the parliamentary advisor. After brief discussion, the motion passed.

Officer Eligibility, Section X.5.3: The Bylaws Committee introduced a motion to amend Section X.5.3 to clarify those who are eligible to run for an elected position and to expand the candidate pool for those offices. The motion includes the following provisions. To be eligible to serve as president, a candidate must be a current or former elected member of the Executive Committee. In the absence of a viable candidate, the president position is open to current or former chair/cochair of a standing committee. To be eligible to serve as one of the other officers of the Executive Committee, a candidate must be a current or former member of the Executive Committee, or a current or former chair/co-chair of a standing committee. After brief discussion, the motion passed.

Secretary Position, Sections X.2.2., X.3.4., X.5.1, X.5.9., X.5.10.H., and X.7.1.2.1: The Executive Committee motioned for an amendment to the above-named sections of the bylaws. The amendment would add to the Secretary’s role, naming that person Secretary-Treasurer. After brief discussion, the motion passed.

All-Staff Conference: Announcement by Joann Ross, Coordinator and Executive Secretary.

The All-Staff Conference will be held July 22-23. On July 23 (2:45-3:30), there will be breakout sessions by district. We would like at least two members of each district to facilitate the sessions. The spots were filled by volunteers in the audience.

3:45 p.m. Closing Remarks by the newly elected provided Staff Senate President, Jessie Brophy.

Jessie has asked Jordan Gonzales to serve as Executive Advisor for the upcoming year. Jordan agreed. Jessie also thanked Sara Haake for serving as Executive Advisor for the term that just ended.

Jessie will be creating an ad hoc committee to review our current committees and to determine if those committees and their respective duties are the correct ones to move us forward into the next year.

4:00 p.m. Adjournment

The next Staff Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025, in the Nebraska Union Swanson Auditorium. The meeting will begin at 2:30 and end at 4:00.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Morgan Green McConnell, Secretary, and Joann Ross, Staff Senate Coordinator and Executive Secretary.

The University of Nebraska is a public land-grant institution with campuses and programs across the State that reside on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Omaha, Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Kaw Peoples, as well as the relocated Ho Chunk (Winnebago), Iowa, Sac and Fox Peoples.