

Meeting Minutes

4/1/2026

Via Zoom and In-Person

Meeting was called to order by President Bary Brown @ 10:01 a.m. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Dr. Maples gave us updates on what is happening at WNMU:

Silver Schools agreed on price for purchasing 6th Street Elementary.

Aldo Leopold will move out of Rich Hall in July and move into Jose Barrio’s Elementary School.

All staff will receive an .8 or 1% raise starting July 1st.

NMPSIA will increase by 10-12%.

WNMU will still pay for 90% of benefits and staff will pay 10%

WNMU is having a firm do a classification study – It will be complete at the end of May.

Staff will complete a list of prioritized staff concerns – questions to give to President Coll.

Senators Present:	Bart Brown, Dori Grinie, Susan Villines, Jenny Castanon, Dean Foster, Samantha Johnson, Izzy Matthes, Sean Souders, Kathy Sorells, James Lee
Proxy:	, Kathy Sorells for Bobbi Dodson,
Absent:	Bre Anne Springer, Maggie Calloway

Approval of Minutes by President Brown Regular Staff Senate meeting: motioned Secretary Villines; seconded by: Senator Johnson.

Approval of President Brown Agenda: motioned by Senator Lee; seconded by: VP Grinie.

President’s Report: Bart Brown

- . First, I would like to congratulate and welcome Dr. Jose Coll to the WNMU community. I wanted to publicly acknowledge our incoming president. At the same time, I would like to thank Dr. Maples for his continued support and leadership during a time when WNMU greatly needed steady interim guidance.
- Last month, we held Staff Senate President elections, and I am honored to announce that our President-Elect is Dean Foster. Dean will have the honor and responsibility of representing staff to our new university president, and I am confident he is well suited for this role.
- This semester has been a historic one for the university in many positive ways. We have selected our 16th president, who will help lead us forward, and our Men’s Basketball team achieved a

remarkable milestone with their inaugural trip to the NCAA Division II Championships—congratulations to them.

- We are also approaching the one-year anniversary of our cyber incident. I want to take a moment to remind everyone to remain diligent in your digital practices and to report any suspicious links or emails to the IT department.
- I would like to thank our grounds crew for the incredible work they do to keep our campus looking beautiful. It is truly a privilege to come to work each day in such a well-maintained environment, and we appreciate everything you do to make that possible.

Vice President’s Report: Dori Grinie

- I want to recognize the Early Childhood Programs for being recognized as the Center of Excellence is something we should all be incredibly proud of. It’s a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the amazing staff who make the program what it is. Were lucky to have Susan Villines up here with us on Senate. I know how much heart and effort she puts into her role. She’s part of an incredible team of lead teachers, teaching assistant, substitutes, administrators, and support staff who show up every day ready to care for and guide our youngest learners. Some staff were students themselves at the CDC. I just want to say thank you to all of them for the energy, compassion, and commitment they bring to ensure our children feel safe, supported, and excited to learn and grow.

Treasurer’s report: Susan Villines

Supplies & Expenses:	365.52
Travel:	0
Staff Recognition:	1889.33
Staff Development:	422.60

Recognition – Employee of the Month: Treasure Springer, Secretary Villines and Senator Castanon – Jenny Castanon from Miller library is Employee of the month for April 2026.

Committee Reports:

Salary, Benefits, & Classification (Senator Johnson):	Met March 18 th discussed – hiring practice, classifications and more trainings.
Rules & Ethics (Senators Foster, Calloway and Barraza):	No report
Career Development and Training (Senators Grinie & Baca):	Checked in with Alex to see if needs any support- not at this time.
Elections (Senators Souders, Matthes and):	No report
Staff Handbook (Senators Dodson and Sorells):	Sent out final update for handbook revisions – grant funded staff will not have personal leave paid out if they leave WNMU.
Assessment (Senator Sorells and Foster):	Meet tomorrow
Rewards & Recognition (Senators Villines and B. Springer, and Castanon):	No report
Web Presence Team (Senators Dodson & Grinie):	Worked on updates to share point. Working on compiling files-headshots – past senators etc.
Department Highlights (Senators Villines and Lee):	No report.

School Spirit Committee: Senator Springer and Baca):	No report
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Old Business:

- A. Update on Staff Senate/Bargaining Unit discussion**
 - a. Sent information to Labor Relations have not received update.
- B. None**
- C. Other- None**

New Business:

- A. Handbook additions (Senator Dodson)**
 - a. In handbook committee report pg 15. I employee resigns or is terminated not eligible for leave balances to be paid out.
- B. Discussion of Staff perspective on use of generative AI in university operations (Senator Foster)**
 - a. Faculty Council Assembly met -to present to staff employees – will postpone until WNMU creates policy for staff employees – tabled until May.
 - b. Secretary Villines made a motion to postpone: Senator Matthes seconded. Motion passed.
- C. Discussion of Staff Senate Shared Governance Document (President Brown)**
 - a. Faculty have developed a document about Shared Governance. Sent out email to Staff Senate to do a general overview on how we see Shared Governance as staff.
 - b. Want staff to get involved in big decisions. Acknowledge staff – as perspective
 - c. Bobbi will share, Shared Governance policy with B of R.
 - d. Policy will need to looked over by General Assembly – representative will look over before final decision. President Brown will send out email.

Announcements and Open Forum:

- A. Admissions had a Discovery Day on March 5th. I was very successful. Shout out to the Presidents office for helping out.**
- B. HR – Still time to turn in tuition waivers for summer session. Get your list of summer worker in ASAP.**
- C. Commencement is May 8th at 5:00pm. No tickets, first come first serve.**
- D. IT is launching a new Advising Space send request to database@wnmu.edu**
- E.**

Next Meeting: Staff Senate: May 6th @ 10am in the Seminar Room/ Zoom available.

Adjournment: moved to adjourn @ 10:55am by Secretary Villines, seconded by Senator Lee, and the motion passed.