



Minutes

September 9, 2026, 1:15 p.m.

Rathskeller Loft, MLK Jr. University Union

Members present: Michelle Wayne, Catie Danner, Shawn Peoples, Amy Morris, Andrea Beals, Arlene Brown, Mary Brown, Tony Craven, Donna Doran, Jordan Jenkins, Arielle Kindred, Garren Porter, Dwight Rutledge

Members absent: Melissa Coleman, Sarah Daugherty, Gus Lamczyk, Kim Pope.

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 1:16pm
2. **Approval of Minutes** - Senator Jordan Jenkins moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Senator Donna Doran. Motion passed.
3. **Executive Officer Reports**
 - A. Treasurer's Report – Amy Morris
 - i. 4 shout out cards (\$37.67)
 - ii. Appropriated Account Balance - \$3454.33
 - iii. Gift Account Balance - \$1.09
 - B. President's Report – Michelle Wayne
 - i. Amber Webb appointed senator to represent Civil Service Council. Senator Jordan Jenkins moved to approve. Senator Amy Morris second. Motion passed.
 - ii. Execs met with President and VP Bierman. President indicated opening weekend went well.
 - iii. Charleston Middle School is on campus through December. Will know then if longer time on campus is needed.
 - iv. President drove around looking at parking and there was plenty of parking spaces available for student parking.
 - v. Tunnel project is going great. About 1-2 weeks behind. It is a lengthy project that will go through all of next year and next summer. Hopeful for an end by summer 2028.

- vi. Thomas Hall renovations are going well. Abatement issue. Looking at next August for move in. Most comprehensive renovation in the last 35 years.
- vii. Pemberton project – limited scope analysis completed. Advancement, Admissions and Enrollment Management would be relocated to Pemberton.
- viii. Enrollment official numbers may be out by Friday. Tough year seen in first time students' number but also dual credit. There will be 46,000 fewer high school graduates in 2036 than in 2025 so less students to recruit. There was some repackaging of scholarships done this year. 90% of students left summer orientation with a class schedule. 4.5% down in credit hours without dual credit, about 3.5% down. Retention is up 70%.
- ix. Budget 4.8% down, but managed some, now at 3.1% down going into the Board of Trustees meeting. Have to control costs across the board including Athletics. We will see a deficit in ledger 2 (student fees).
- x. Fall update will take place 9/30/2026.

4. Vice President for Business Affairs Report

- A. Project Updates
 - i. Tunnel project – 9th street will be closed for one month starting 9/14/2026
- B. HR Updates
- C. Enrollment Update – 4% down on undergraduates. Double deficit for grad students.
- D. Other
 - i. BOT meeting is tomorrow. \$4.8 million deficit presented in June; reduced down to \$3.1 million now. Hope to be flat on non-appropriated (fees, auxiliaries, grants).
 - ii. Cost savings include eliminating desktop printers; if you have one, you can't buy toner for it anymore. P-cards are being removed from some employees.
 - iii. VSIP – 10 staff took advantage. Faculty numbers will be known later. They are still in the revocable signing period. To eliminate deficit, need 40-45 people. Won't get that.
 - iv. Director of HR is leaving. Search posted today. Hope to get someone in soon. Interim solution in progress.

5. Standing Committee Reports

A. Budget and Planning Committee - Senator Amy Morris (Chair)

1. EIU Leadership Council on Mission, Planning and Budget Committee – Senators Amy Morris, Arielle Kindred
 - a. Met last week. Piloting one commencement in December and two in May. Graduates will receive 7-8 tickets.
 - b. Review mission statement this year.
 - c. Giving Day is 4/21/2027. Over 60 alumni events are planned.
 - d. We are down to 45 out of the original 59 international countries.
 - e. Next Strategic Plan starting after 2028. Will begin planning in the Spring.
 - f.

B. Liaison Committee – Senator Garren Porter (Chair)

1. Staff/Faculty Senate Relations Subcommittee – Senators Garren Porter, Kim Pope
 - a. Met yesterday, 9/28/26. New scholarship – Distinguished Student Award discussion. Missing members. Faculty forum on mergers and issues with the mergers. There were tech issues in classrooms, but they were fixed.
2. HR Liaison Subcommittee – Senators Melissa Coleman, Shawn Peoples, Amy Morris
 - a. Meeting was cancelled.

C. Elections Committee – Senators Donna Doran (Chair); Jordan Jenkins, Mary Brown

- a. Fifteen people interviewed for the open civil service rep senate seat. Amber Webb was selected.

6. Ad Hoc Committees/University Committees

A. Staff Recognition/Development Committee – Senators Catie Danner, Kim Pope, Arielle Kindred

1. A lot of shout outs coming in.

B. Constitution Review Committee – Senators Michelle Wayne, Catie Danner, Shawn Peoples, Amy Morris

1. Petition presented in order to get 6 signatures to bring forward proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws. Proposed amendments will be presented and discussed at the October meeting.

7. Constituent Reports

- A. Administrative and Professional – Senators Catie Danner, Dwight Rutledge – no report
- B. AFSCME 981 – Senators Donna Doran, Garren Porter, Jordan Jenkins, Mary Brown, Kim Pope, Gus Lamczyk – no report
- C. Contract Appointment or Grant Funded – Senator Melissa Coleman
 - 1. CCR&R is now a part of the Illinois Department of Early Childhood. Lots of changes.
- D. Minority Report – Senators Shawn Peoples, Arielle Kindred
 - 1. MLK Jr. Community Breakfast will be held January 18, 2027. Looking to partner with Charleston Middle School to see what community means to them.
- E. Negotiated Trades – Senator Michelle Wayne
 - 1. One summer help person finishing up fire alarm project.
- F. Non-negotiated Civil Service – Senators Amy Morris, Sarah Daugherty, Arlene Brown
 - 1. Senator Arlene Brown reported her last meeting yesterday. She expressed to the senate that she enjoyed working with everyone.
- G. Non-negotiated Trades – Senator Tony Craven – no report
- H. UPD – Senator Andrea Beals
 - 1. Starting January 1, 2027, a new law goes into effect for scooters and E-bikes. There are restrictions on use on sidewalks. There are additional responsibilities to operate safely. More information can be found on the Illinois Secretary of State website
<https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/traffic-safety/micromobility-in-illinois.html>.
 - 2. Two vacancies to fill. Plan to be fully staffed by November. Tanner Garrett is training on the day shift.
 - 3. Stacy Smith is retiring at the end of the month.
 - 4. Between 8/26/26-9/9/26, 386 parking citations were issued. Staff will get ticketed if parked in the spots designated for CMS on the north side of Coleman, Library lot.

8. Unfinished Business - none

9. New Business - none

10.General Announcements

- A. RSVP for the social at the President's house if you have not done so. The social is September 14, 2026, 5pm-6pm.
- B. **September 12** - EIU Squared: EIU Block Party on the Square, noon-3pm (food, music, inflatables, games)
- C. **September 30** – Fall Update with President Jay Gatrell: 8am coffee & donuts, 8:30am Remarks, Doudna (Dvorak Concert Hall)
- D. **September 30** – Election for EAC Representative via electronic ballot 12:01am-11:59pm or in person voting in Human Resources office 8:00am-4:30pm (voting is for Civil Service employees only)
- E. **Review the University Newsletter for additional announcements**
<https://www.eiu.edu/media/newsletter.php>

11.Adjournment – Senator Jordan Jenkins moved. Senator Melissa Coleman second. Motion passed.