

**2025-2026 Administrative & Professional Staff Council**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**1:30 P.M.**

**Teams meeting**

**I. Call to Order**

The April meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Bryson.

**II. Roll Call and Announcement of Proxies**

Members Present: Tena Bennett, Todd Bryson, Amy Eaton, Rachel Frazier, Caleb Hale, Laura Morgan, Layla Murphy, Josi Rawls, Elyse Weller

Guest: Melissa Laake

**III. Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

Motion: L. Morgan

Second: E. Weller

The minutes from 3/18/26 were approved as presented.

**IV. Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

Motion: C. Hale

Second: T. Bennett

The agenda was approved as presented.

**V. Guest Speakers - (none)**

**VI. Reports**

**A. Chair** – The Board of Trustees will have their meeting here at the Student Center ballrooms on April 16, 2026. A link was provided to the council for the BOT’s meeting agenda. T. Bryson briefly discussed the agenda, including the Lindell Sturgis winner. A link was provided to the council to read the Daily Egyptian article about Provost Tucker stepping down from her role.

**B. Representatives to University Committees – *Interim Provost Search – Rachel Frazier***  
*(A resignation letter from the search committee was shared with the council.)* R. Frazier and T. Bryson decided the information in the letter was too sensitive to share on the AP Listserv and that it was needed to discuss at the AP Staff Council meeting. R. Frazier served on the original search committee. The committee worked in a very efficient manner, but they felt the whole process was rushed with a very tight turnaround. Everything was done and then they waited for the final packets from the candidates. Interviews had already been scheduled. Then they were told that all these other constituency groups would be added. The committee felt like they couldn’t move forward. It wasn’t fair to them or the new people being added. It should have been thought out and executed from the beginning. Being a committee of 11 would have felt unreasonable, given the restraints. This also came about at a time when there was only one candidate, so we felt that was a little bit strange, that this was done as a result and then other candidates (4) were then added. We felt it was just a grievance waiting to happen. The committee did turn over all of what they did to the people that were named in the additional groups, but what will happen moving forward is unknown. The initial email from the Chancellor's Office to the search committee was provided on 3-18-26, and they were told to have interviews completed and final recommendations to the Chancellor by 4-10-26. All of the people on the original committee are very busy, highly involved, and we did our due diligence. We were ready to interview this Friday. The timeline now is unknown.

C. Hale volunteered to serve on the Interim Provost Search Committee as the AP Staff Council rep.

**C. Committee Appointments**

**1. Election Committee** – J. Rawls sent a call for nominations to the sectors, which are due May 1, 2026. Four nominations were received from Sectors 1, 2, and 5. Nothing was received from the School of Medicine or from Administration and Finance. The new council members

will be seated in June. J. Rawls suggested reorganizing the sectors to make them more even. T. Bryson stated the election will run for two weeks. Thank you to J. Rawls and E. Weller for handling this.

**2. Committee on Committees** – *(none)*

**3. Constituency Relations** – J. Rawls stated the flyer for the Jazz Night at Hanger 9 for April 30, 2026, should be sent on the listserv again.

**4. Operating Paper** – E. Weller and L. Murphy worked on operating paper. T. Bryson stated more changes may be added.

**5. Staff Benefits & Welfare** – L. Morgan stated they met briefly to gather ideas.

**VII. Old Business** – T. Bryson stated the faculty and staff appreciation day (funded by the Foundation) will be May 14, 2026, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. There will be a tour at the Tedrick Welcome Center, a climbing wall at the Becker Pavilion, food trucks, volleyball, mental health awareness, etc. The rain date will be May 21, 2026.

**VIII. New Business** – *(none)*

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion: T. Bennett

Second: C. Hale