

Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 3, 2025

Time: 8:07 a.m. MST

Location: Google Meet

Attendees: Alma Yubeta, Andrew Min, Aubrey Conover, Audrey Keefe, Chris Apodaca, Chris Parisoff, Christina Harbour, Christopher Rodriguez, Cody Watts, Danielle Johnson, David Bea, David Parker, Denise Reilly, Don Harp, Donovan Wagner, Echo Casey, Edgar Soto, Ellie Hutchinson, Erika Elias, Francine Tupiken Ruelas, Ian Roark, Irene Robles-Lopez, Jade Peña, Janelle Volkenant, Janet Rico Uhrig, Jason Brown, Jennie Peterson, Joey Spray Dotolo, Jonas Camp, Jose Saldamando, Juanita Bonillas, Katie Joyce, Katy Hernandez, Kelly O'Keefe, Ken Hosto, Keri Hill, Kristy Snowden, Lizette Arellano, Lucy Simpson, Magdalena Castillo, Marissa Amezcua, Michael Tulino, Michelle Burt, Miguel Mora, Natalie McConnell, Nick Riley, Priscilla Phillips, Ricky Gonzalez, Sarah Jayne, Seana Chaves, Susan Ho, Suzanne Desjardin, Tina Neil, Troyd Davis, Vanessa Romero, Yvonne Perez-Candelaria

Meeting Overview

- September 2025 minutes were unanimously approved (21 votes).
- Human Resources introduced a new Director of Organizational Effectiveness and Development, Joey Spray Dotolo, and announced updates to performance reviews and training platforms.
- Facilities, Finance, and Academic Affairs provided major updates on ongoing projects, budget impacts, grants, and Chancellor's institutional goals.
- Council discussed 21-day comment policies, shared governance, and upcoming review of Staff Council bylaws and mission statement.
- Council reaffirmed commitment to collaboration across staff, faculty, and administrative groups to strengthen governance participation.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Erika Elias, Past Chair, filling in for Chair Cody Watts. Dr. Elias confirmed the meeting was recorded and began a roll call with assistance from Vanessa Romero. Proxies were noted where applicable.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Christopher Rodriguez reported that the September 2025 meeting minutes were approved with 21 affirmative votes and no objections.

Business Reports

Chancellor's Office

No report provided.

Finance and Administration (David Bea)

Dr. Bea discussed the ongoing audit cycle, Pima County investment pool clerical error with minimal impact to the College, federal shutdown implications, TRIO grant updates, and Chancellor's institutional goals. The College is targeting a \$4 million expense reduction and aligning plans with budget and audit processes. Staff were also encouraged to get flu shots.

Provost and Academic Affairs (Ian Roark)

Dr. Roark provided updates on his appointment as permanent Provost, emphasizing communication, efficiency, and shared governance. He discussed improving the first-year student experience, ongoing ABE facility negotiations, and challenges with federal grant funding. Dr. Irene Robles-Lopez added that efforts are underway to align divisional goals to strengthen student success initiatives.

Human Resources (Tina Neil)

HR introduced Joey Spray Dotolo as Director of Organizational Effectiveness and Development. Tina Neil announced the transition from Cornerstone to NeoEd and the consolidation of training content into 'My Learning' (Prescipro). Performance reviews were assigned with an October 27 deadline, and employees were encouraged to complete a feedback survey. Updates on employee handbook policies under 21-day comment were also shared, including work location, sick leave, and ethical conduct policies.

Facilities (Troyd Davis)

Mr. Davis reported progress on the 29th Street Learning Center, Downtown Campus Fit Lab (ahead of schedule for February 2026), and the nearly complete C Building for Construction Trades. Deferred maintenance projects are ongoing.

Committee and Group Reports

Internal Audit and Policy Updates

Ken Hosto and Jose Saldamando presented updates to AP 3.46.02 (proof of disability documentation) and internal audit policies aligned with global standards.

Governing Board Report

Don Harp summarized the September meeting, highlighting government relations updates, Chancellor Nessi's first-year achievements, and encouraged council engagement.

All College Council

Discussion focused on restructuring or merging with the College Leadership Council to improve governance. Denise Reilly provided context on the review process.

AERC

Jason Brown reported on updates to faculty hiring and temporary employee corrective action policies, as well as ongoing discussion of the media relations policy.

Benefits Working Group

Janelle Volkenant reported on revisions to short-term disability policies and efforts to manage rising health care costs.

Bylaws and Elections Committee

The committee continues to review Staff Council mission and purpose statements; members encouraged to engage in governance participation.

College Leadership Council

Cody Watts and Erika Elias attended the September 17 meeting with strong cross-group collaboration; next meeting set for November 19.

Discussion Items

Members discussed overlapping 21-day comment periods for employee handbook and policy revisions. Suggestions were made to include posting or closing dates on MyPima for easier tracking. Staff were reminded to submit comments to show engagement with policy updates.

Action Items

- Review and comment on 21-day policies currently posted.
- Encourage participation in Staff Council and governance groups.
- Provide departmental highlights for inclusion in the next board report.
- Continue review of Staff Council bylaws and mission statements.

Adjournment

Dr. Erika Elias thanked all representatives, presenters, and guests for their participation. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. (MST) via Google Meet. The meeting adjourned.