



STAFF SENATE

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

happy new year



Dear Colleagues,

As we begin the new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the recent holidays and the strength and warmth of our campus community. This time has been an opportunity to recognize the unity that binds us together as colleagues, friends, and partners in service.

Over the past year, we've tackled challenges and celebrated wins together. The Staff Senate put on some great events that helped bring us closer as a campus family, like the Dunkin Cruiser, the Communication Symposium, the Staff Senate Roundtable, and our Christmas Luncheon. Each one was a reminder of how much we value staying connected, working together, and celebrating as a community.

Through everything, our commitment to one another has kept us moving forward. The Staff Senate is dedicated to keeping that spirit of teamwork strong, making sure everyone's voice counts and every effort is appreciated. As we carry the joy and spirit of the Christmas season into the new year, I hope we continue to strengthen those connections across the University by building bridges of understanding, fostering kindness, and celebrating our campus family.

Let's also take a moment to appreciate the holidays around the world, from Hanukkah and Kwanza to Diwali and Lunar New Year. May 2026 bring opportunities to grow together, strengthen our bonds, and continue the important work of unity and community.

On behalf of the Staff Senate, thank you for your continued support, dedication, and contributions. Wishing you a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!

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Kristi

Kristi Klien
Staff Senate President



Fall Communications Symposium

The Staff Senate Communications Committee, in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources, presented the Fall Communications Symposium titled, "Purpose and Pressure in Higher Ed," on October 29 in the DeNaples Center. The event welcomed more than 140 registrants and featured a panel discussion exploring the external pressures currently impacting various areas of the University.



The panel included: University President Father Joseph G. Marina, S.J.; Bobby Davis, Vice President for Advancement; Robert Farrell, General Counsel and University Secretary; Stephen Hietsch, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration; Lauren S. Rivera, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students; Tracy M. Stewart, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Patricia L. Tetreault, Vice President for Human Resources; Gerald Zaboski, Senior Vice President for the Office of the President; Shannon Zottola, Vice President for Enrollment Management; and Kate Yerkes, Assistant Provost for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

Running On Dunkin'

The Staff Senate treated colleagues to a fall pick-me-up on October 14 with a visit from the Dunkin' Community Cruiser, serving 300 seasonal samples and distributing gift cards at the flagpoles.



Photo credit: Melisa Gallo

To Market, To Market...

Sponsored by the Staff Senate and The Jesuit Center, the Iggy Shuttle offered weekly rides to the Co-Op Farmer's Market every Friday from September 26 through October 31. The Staff Development Committee arranged for two shuttle runs to depart from the flagpoles, giving staff an easy and convenient way to enjoy the market during the fall season.



THE CHRISTMAS *Luncheon*

Festive, Fun...

The Social Events and Community Building Committee hosted the annual Christmas Luncheon on December 10 in the McIlhenney Ballroom, welcoming more than 270 University staff members. Two seatings were offered at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Staff Senate President Kristi Klien extended a warm welcome to attendees, followed by grace offered by Tim Dulle, Executive Director of the Jesuit Center, during the morning seating and by University President Father Joseph G. Marina, S.J., during the afternoon seating.



and Philanthropic!



Raffle and 50/50 proceeds totaling nearly \$2,000 will benefit the University's Domestic Service Trip Program through the Center for Service and Social Justice. In addition, items were collected for the Royal Restore Food Pantry. Thank you all for your generosity!



EVENT SPOTLIGHT



GREETINGS FROM THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

By: Patti Tetreault, Vice President for Human Resources

Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to take advantage of the holiday break to have some down time and recharge. Reflecting on the past few months, the Fall semester was busy with staffing and position changes resulting from colleague retirements. 31 staff members chose to participate in the staff retirement incentive program offered in 2025. In response to the voluntary staff retirement plan and in support of ongoing needs to manage University fiscal and human resources, HR is working closely with department and divisional leadership on staffing structures.

Since the summer, HR has executed more than 60 staff position change actions, including position reviews, job descriptions updates, grade changes, and promotions. In addition, HR worked with hiring managers to post staff position openings and onboard 37 new staff employees. We look forward to formally welcoming new staff hired during the last year at Spring Convocation on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

This month, HR will implement a 2.75% salary increase for staff. There were no changes to the health plan design for January 2026, and the premium adjustment was slightly lower than trend. We will continue to closely monitor the cost of our employee benefit programs in the new year and manage plan specifics to be able to continue to offer a comprehensive benefits package.

During the Fall semester, HR continued our commitment to supporting employees in their roles across campus. HR actively participated in the Roundtable event and supported other Staff Senate programming as well, including the Fall Communication Symposium. From a work-life perspective, HR continues to support the Alternate Work Schedule Policy and hybrid remote work for eligible positions during select weeks in January and throughout the summer.

Contrary to the belief that HR is no fun, this fall, HR supported the suggestion to implement Denim Fridays year-round and the Staff Senate initiative to offer transportation to the Scranton Farmer's Market. We look forward to partnering on future initiatives!

As we begin 2026, please don't hesitate to drop-in, call, or email HR with any inquiries or concerns.



A farewell reception was held in July in Brennan Hall's Rose Room to say farewell and celebrate colleagues who opted to participate in the University's 2025 staff retirement incentive program.

STAFF SENATORS

Professional and Paraprofessional	Clerical	Maintenance, Trades, Technical, and University Police
Newly Elected (2025-2027)		
Gerianne Barber Gina Butler Brenda Clarke Kelly Cook Bridget Hunter Rose Ann Jubinski Denise Kuzma Melissa Przewlocki Megan Sweeney Traci Vennie	Melissa Eckenrode Sybil Keris	Shonna Emick Raymond Kratz Daniela Teneva
Returning (2025-2026)		
Shawn Beistline Jill Eidenberg Autumn Forgione Lucia Grissinger Bridget Judge Bryn Schofield	Melisa Gallo Kristi Klien	Brenda Amato Joseph Medina Hollie Roscioli Alex Wasalinko
Alternates (2025-2026)		
Bridget Conlogue Grace Crowley Meghan Eidenberg Diana Collins Gilmore Marcella LaMura	Melinda Finnerty	

Staff Senate Officers
President: Kristi Klien
Vice President: Traci Vennie
Secretary: Lucia Grissinger
Parliamentarian: Melisa Gallo

Board of Trustees Staff Senate Representatives for 2025-2026
Board of Trustees: Kristi Klien
Board of Trustees Enrollment Management & External Affairs Committee: Rose Ann Jubinski
Board of Trustees Education Committee: Melisa Gallo

The Meg Cullen-Brown Magis Award Summer and Fall 2025 Recipients

June: Ann Keeler
July: Jill O'Connor
August: Antonelle Kern
September: Ann Siock
October: Majid Mokhtari
November: Maria Z. Cutsinger
December: Michelle Van Pelt

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners, who exemplify the magis spirit through their commitment, positivity, and service to our University community. Each winner received a monetary certificate for our wonderful campus food service outlets and a reserved parking space in the DeNaples Parking Pavilion for the span of their award month.

STAFF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications	<p>The Communications Committee, in conjunction with the Office of Human Resources, sponsored the Staff Senate Fall Communications Symposium in October. Father Marina, Kate Yerkes, and members of Cabinet paneled an open forum for staff and faculty to asks questions on their biggest concerns regarding the future of higher education and the University. There were more than 140 registrations for the event.</p>
Elections & Membership	<p>Staff Senate membership has changed as some of the Senators retired over the past several months. Please see the previous page for a current list of Senators. Kristi Klien and Jason Oakey were elected to represent staff on the Space Utilization Committee. This new committee will discuss topics such as how departments are allocated across campus and what steps would be needed to implement changes. For example, they might explore whether administrators should be located in one central space and what that would look like in practice.</p>
Finance	<p>To date, the budget is in good order. We await receipts from the Christmas Luncheon so we can forecast expenditures for the remainder of the year.</p>
Social Events & Community Building	<p>The Social Events and Community Building Committee worked on planning the annual Staff Senate Christmas Luncheon on December 10, which included two seatings and a basket raffle. Despite the weather, it was well attended!</p>
Staff Development	<p>The Staff Development Committee worked on creating an Event Planning 101 resource document in the fall. We anticipate having the links available on the Staff Senate webpage early in the new year. We hope to collaborate with IT in the spring for staff training on the many applications offered by Microsoft suite. The committee also collaborated with The Jesuit Center to provide staff with weekly Iggy shuttle service to the local farmers market from September 26 through October 31.</p>
Staff Recognition & Excellence Awards	<p>The Staff Recognition and Excellence Committee had a busy and rewarding Fall semester celebrating the incredible spirit and dedication of our staff with the monthly Meg Cullen-Brown Magis Staff Spirit Award and working diligently on updating the Sursum Corda ("Lift Up Your Hearts") Award procedures. The committee also assisted the Office of Human Resources with advertising and collecting nominations. This prestigious award will be selected by the University Cabinet and presented at Spring Convocation.</p>

Roundtable Recap

A Staff Senate Roundtable was held in December with 61 staff members representing all three constituencies in attendance. The guest speaker was Patricia Tetreault, Vice President for Human Resources, who answered questions submitted via the registration form and during the event.

A huge THANK YOU to Human Resources for sponsoring this event, the planning committee, attendees, and especially Dining Services for providing the delicious boxed lunches!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

[Register Here](#)

REV. JOSEPH G. MARINA, S.J.
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
INVITES YOU AND A GUEST TO:

THE 2026 CELEBRATION OF OUR WORK

THE 2026 THEME:
**RAISING THE TORCH: A TEAM
CELEBRATION**



Full Buffet
Open Bar
Door Prizes

Saturday
Jan. 24th
6:30 - 10 p.m.
Byron Recreation
Complex

Live Music from
Leighann and
Company

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



SPRING
CONVOCAATION
2026

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

THE DENAPLES CENTER
THE REV. BERNARD
MCILHENNY BALLROOM

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SCRANTON
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY