

**Student Affairs Director Meeting
February 12, 2026**

Minutes

Present: Dennis King, RJ Schank, Dennis King, Joey Linn, Roberto Apodaca, Kelsi Broadway, Brett Meyer, Amy Schaffer, Chantelle Arnold, Jon Armstrong, Craig Karlin, and Chris Gist

Traveling Trophy

- The Student Affairs Traveling Trophy was presented to Sherri Matlock and Suellyn Stenger. Sherri and Suellyn have announced their retirement from Fort Hays and the Division thanks them both for their long-standing service to the Early College Programs and Fort Hays State University.

Academic Affairs Update

- Jill announced Fort Hays has received approval from KBOR and HLC of the Bachelor of Science in Financial Forensic Fraud and Investigation degree starting Fall 2026. This is a dual program between accounting and criminal justice. Bachelor of Arts and Religion Education and Community Engagement has also been approved to start Fall 2026. Both degrees are offered on and off campus.
- Bachelor of Science in Criminalistics is also a newer degree which is a collaborative degree between Criminal Justice and the sciences.
- The search for the Dean of the Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics is being kicked off. A search firm will be used. The Director of Career Development search will also start during the spring semester. Beth Spencer will be leading the search.
- A working group is being formed to participate in the revision of the digital master plan. Elodie Jones and Magdalene Moy will lead the group. Jill has asked the committee to provide feedback to her by May.
- Beth Spencer is working on the revision of the probation and suspension reinstatement for academic probation and suspension.
- Jill will be chairing the Senior Advisor for Executive Operations committee.
- WSU and FHSU have partnered to do a feasibility study for a dental school in Kansas.

VP Update

- Legislature Update
 - Jill and Joey gave updates from the legislature session.
 - There is a long way to go with the session. We should know in the next few weeks where we stand with the budget.
 - The Governor has proposed a 2.5 merit raise for state employees in her budget proposal. This will not be decided on until the end of the session.

- KBOR Update
 - CSAO met with the regents after the board meeting. The group had a productive conversation with the regents. Joey stressed to them the importance of need-based aid.
- Performance Reviews
 - Joey will be checking with HR to make sure all the reviews for the division have been completed.
 - Look at Division Goals for next year. Send input to AVPs.
- Hays SRP
 - Sunday, February 15 @ 6:30 pm
 - Joey would like to have at least one representative from each office in the division attend. To date, 103 students have RSVP'd with 150 guests, along with 66 faculty and staff.
- A \$9 to \$10 million renovation of Malloy Hall will start within the next 6 months to a year.

Enrollment Leadership Update

- Spring enrollment is up both on-campus and online. Undergraduate numbers are up and graduates down slightly. SCH is up.
- Still waiting on international enrollment numbers.
- Applications are up for the fall semester.
- To date, we have received 633 housing applications for first-time students, which are up over 100 applications from last year.

FHSU Online Open House

- Tuesday, March 10 from 4:30 to 6 pm
- Social media notices are being sent out.
- Scholarship opportunities and keynote speakers from across campus.

Search/Staffing Updates

Admissions

- Northern Regional Admissions Counselor position will be reopened in about a month.
- North Central Admissions Counselor position will be posted in about a month.
- In the process of hiring the Digital Admissions Counselor position.
- Elizabeth Sutherland accepted the Coordinator position in Student Engagement and Belonging. Her position will be searched for.

Student Engagement & Belonging

- Elizabeth Sutherland accepted the Coordinator position in Student Engagement. She will start her new position March 2.

Enrollment Leadership

- The Garden City position is being reclassified with the state as more of an Admissions Counselor position.

For the Good of the Order

Memorial Union

- Second City will be performing at Beach Schmidt on Friday, February 13. Tickets are still available.

The next Student Affairs Director meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26 at 1:30 pm in the Pioneer Room, Memorial Union.