

**Student Affairs Director Meeting
February 26, 2026**

Minutes

Present: RJ Schnack, Dennis King, David Bollig, Elizabeth Weber, Edie McCracken, Holly Rebel, Brett Meyer, Chantelle Arnold, Christie Sander, Craig Karlin, and Chris Gist

Traveling Trophy

- The Traveling Trophy was presented to Dave Storer. Dave has announced his retirement effective April 30, 2026.
- Joey thanked Dave for his almost 30 years of service to the Memorial Union and Fort Hays State University.

Enrollment Leadership Update

- Enrollment Update
 - Spring enrollment comparisons from last year are up with undergraduate enrollment being up and graduate enrollment down slightly.
 - Numbers for Fall 2026 are up in all categories. International numbers for next fall are unknown at this time.
 - Retention from fall to spring was up 1 percent from last year.
- KAMS Preview Day – Saturday, February 28
 - We have 15 prospective students signed up to attend.

VP Update

- Legislative Update
 - Still unknown as negotiations continue.
- Director Retreat – April 2
 - The retreat will allow for strategic discussions for our division. We should know more from Topeka by then.
 - The retreat is required for directors.
 - Each director will give a 10-minute update on where they were, where they are, and where they are going.
- Cambodia
 - Joey has been asked to travel to Cambodia, May 5-11 to give the commencement speech at the American University of Phnom Penh. AUPP will be celebrating their 10th anniversary of graduates.

Financia Aid

- The One Big Beautiful Act has created substantial changes to loading awards for students. Financial Aid cannot start awarding until stipulations are finalized.
- Incoming freshman will be awarded first. Returning students will be awarded later this semester.
- There will be a change to the loan program for 2026-2027. Loans will be prorated to the level the student is enrolled in, which will affect how much students will be refunded.

Summer Camps

- RJ reported that due to construction on the first three floors of McMIndes this summer, those floors will be offline for summer 2026. The other three floors will be updated during the summer of 2027. The outside steps at Stadium Place will also be updated this summer, so we will not be able to offer as many Stadium Place apartments.
- Summer stays will be placed on the three open floors in McMIndes and apartments will be limited.
- Due to the construction this summer, summer camps will be using the available room in McMIndes and Victor E and possibly Custer Hall. Football camp will have over 600 attendees. Women's basketball camp is also at the same time as the football camp.
- Hansen Hall will be full of residents.
- Incoming students attending an orientation will not be able to see their actual room. Students will only be able to see a showroom in McMIndes and Victor E.
- Residential Life is also looking at adding more cameras to cover as many blind spots as possible.

Search/Staffing Updates

- Early College Programs
 - Joey Linn is chairing the search for the Director position. The position has been posted.
 - Craig Karlin will chair the Assistant Director search. The search will be posted soon.
- Admissions
 - In the process of hiring open positions.
- Residential Life & Health & Wellness Services
 - In the process of hiring graduate students for the 2026-2027 academic year.

For the Good of the Order

- Battle of the Bites will be held on Wednesday, March 4, sponsored by the Roar Board. The Roar Board has been revitalized from the former University Activities Board. The departments within the Student Life Cluster are collaborating with SGA to form the board. At this time, nine students have been appointed to the board.

- Affiliated school registrations are being added to Workday for the spring semester. They will be added to Workday in a non-degree seeking program of study so the students can have access to Fort Hays services.
- FHSU Online will be hosting their Open House on March 10 from 4:30 to 6 pm.
- An SRP is being held in Kearney tonight, February 26. The Wichita and Salina SRPs are scheduled for Sunday, March 1 and the Colorado Springs and Denver SRPs will be held March 7 & 8.

The next Student Affairs Director meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 1:30 pm in the Pioneer Room, Memorial Union.