

NESS Meeting Minutes July 8, 2026

Attendance: John Roemer, President; Tammy Brown, Jenny Carr; Cathy Fu; Gina Hoagland; Melessia Jasper; Michele Mullins; Wendi Myers; Sharon Paul; Kyle Pokorny; Barbara Smith, Terisa White.

Thoughts from our new president:

- **NESS supervisor involvement:** John is a supervisor and would like to increase (non-exempt) supervisor engagement in NESS.
- **Upcoming survey:** John will send out a survey for all, but is especially interested in feedback from supervisors. He'll also survey the group on good NESS meeting times, speakers we might invite to meetings, and other items.
- **Upcoming meeting with Lynne Adams**
 - Staff Senate compensation: There are stipends available for senate leadership, but no one seems to be able to use them. John and Cael Mulcahy, ESS President, will meet with Lynne later this month to discuss.
 - How do Confidential and supervisory employees get raises if we are to be uncoupled from bargaining non-exempt staff? Can we match what the collective bargaining unit gets, will we have access to a merit pool, or other?

Report from previous Committee meetings

- CUSS (Council of University System Staff) meeting: *Cathy Fu*
 - Roy Prouty, CUSS chair, spoke at the recent BoR meeting, urging more leadership transparency with staff. Staff reductions-- especially unannounced or with little warning-- create anxiety and low morale on campuses.
 - The state's Paid Family Medical Leave program began July 1 and there's a lot of information available from HR.
 - The recent Board of Regents meeting was impacted/disrupted by two groups: Students urging USM to divest from companies involved in wars, etc and AFSCME members urging USM to honor its contract with the union and give pay increases.

NESS/ESS Cook-out is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12 from 12:00 - 2:30 pm.

All are welcome.

Our next NESS meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, location TBD.

--- Cathy Fu, NESS Secretary