

Staff Council Meeting

March 9, 2026
1:15 PM

Attendees: Joy Skinner, Kay Grigsby, Abbie Raum, Beth Sinnwell, Dean Cockerham, Adrian Norris, Ryan Callahan, Kris Steege, Steph Key, Amy Tucker, Bethany Myers, Ann Wrede, Amy Wilson, Lindsey Leonard

Not Present: Jamie Holloway

Agenda

- Exemplary Staff Awards
- Staff Summit Debrief

Minutes

Agenda Item: Exemplary Staff Awards

Nominations were reviewed for the annual Exemplary Staff Awards which will be presented at the Leadership and Service Awards program on April 7. Award recipients must:

- Demonstrate excellence and go “above and beyond” in the workplace and in the community
- Exhibit a positive influence in the workplace through their work with students, faculty, and/or staff
- Be committed to advancing the mission of Wartburg College.

This year there were 14 total nominations for 12 distinct individuals, 11 of which were eligible to receive the award.

Time was given to read each nomination and discuss. The council members then voted for one hourly staff and one administrative staff nominee using secret ballots, and Bethany Myers, who attended the meeting virtually, sent her votes to Joy via email.

This year’s award winners are:

- Tara Winter, Administrative Staff
- Mark Dunnick, Hourly Staff

Agenda Item: Staff Summit

Discussion was then opened to reflect on the Staff Summit event on March 2.

Reactions to the event were overwhelmingly positive. 130 people RSVPed to the event, with 113 attending. This was the third year of consecutive growth in attendance. The cost came out to about \$40 per person which was under budget. Attendees and council members really enjoyed the flow of the sessions, having on campus departments present and having plenty of time for questions.

The feedback for improvement from the paper assessments was in alignment with previous years, and requested more teamwork/groupwork exercises, and the ability to connect with people outside of their departments. Attendees also would have liked additional time to finish the assessment and give feedback.

Some ideas for improvement that were shared in the discussion included reaching out to every department individually for attendance and coverage planning in advance, reaching out to SLT about closing departments or buildings for the day, and considering alternate locations next year.

The final wrap-up pieces for the Staff Summit are to upload any photos from the event to the Sharepoint, and to write thank-yous (Steph and Kay).

Previous Agenda Items to Return to:

- Exemplary Staff Awards
- Four-day work week policy suggestion