

2025-2026 CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Student Services Building Room 307
1:00 PM

I. Call to Order

The April meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Cheek.

II. Roll Call of Membership

Present: Thomas Becker, Elizabeth Cheek, Odessa Colombo, Mickel Cordes, Ann Coward, Liz Franklin, Cyndy Green, Amelia Ketzle, Kristen Matthews, Jason Phillips, Rick Pierson, Terry Richardson, Marianne Schoonover, Jamie Schrader, Dina Timmons, Anthony Travelstead, and Christopher Vick.

Absent: Diane McIntyre

Guests: Rebecca Dycus, Andy Hawkins, Melissa Laake, Tim Leonard, and Tiffany Vicente.

III. Guest Speaker – *Tim Leonard, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics*

The Athletics Director provided updates on SIU's sports programs, highlighted faculty and staff ticket benefits, and encouraged greater campus participation. Spring sports are ongoing, with softball continuing as a nationally competitive program and baseball seeking improvement during conference play. Golf and track and field are also active. Fall sports outlook is positive, with continued progress under newer coaching leadership in volleyball and women's soccer. Football was emphasized as a major focus, with optimism for a strong season due to returning talent, a favorable schedule, increased investment, and expanded efforts to enhance game-day atmosphere and student engagement.

Faculty and staff were reminded of the 50% discount on season tickets, and the importance of attendance for program success and campus impact was stressed. Men's basketball wrapped up a challenging season marked by strong defensive metrics but limited wins, complicated by roster turnover and evolving player compensation dynamics. SIU plans to remain fiscally disciplined while staying competitive in the Missouri Valley Conference. Finally, athletics fundraising was reported as record-setting, with approximately \$10 million in pledges and gifts this fiscal year. These funds are increasingly important as SIU adapts to new revenue-sharing and player compensation models, while maintaining a focus on sustainability, competitiveness, and community engagement.

R. Pierson asked if there is any talk about having concerts at the arena again. Director Leonard stated yes. The biggest challenges are infrastructure and staffing. There are other options for such events in the surrounding area.

IV. Human Resources – *Nicholas Wortman, Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources* - (no report)

V. Public Comments - (none)

VI. Approval of the Minutes for March 4, 2026

Motion: T. Richardson

Second: C. Green

A vote commenced: 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The minutes from March 4, 2026, were approved as presented.

VII. Announcements – (none)

VIII. Reports

A. Council President

- 1. Chancellor's Meeting** – The committee has not met. The next meeting is on April 10, 2026.
- 2. Board of Trustees' Meeting** – The next meeting is on April 16, 2026, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

B. School of Medicine Civil Service Council – Tiffany Vicente/Kristie Parkins – (no report)

C. Annuitants Association – (no report)

D. Council Committees

1. **Executive/Budget – Tony Travelstead** – They met and set the agenda on March 17, 2026.
2. **Bylaws – Marianne Schoonover** – The committee has not met. They will prepare for the next reading.
3. **Civil Service Benefits – Odessa Colombo/Amelia Ketzle** – The committee has not met.
4. **Education Assistance – Tony Travelstead** – The committee met March 31, 2026, and discussed past fundraisers. MODS was snowed out, a small profit was made from the Silkworm sale, and about \$200 was made at the concessions for the SIU basketball game and high school sectionals game. The next Quatro's Day is April 28, 2026. The April 18th Flea Market currently has 12 participants signed up. Advertisement is on the Education Assistance Facebook page. A dine-in day is being worked on for Sergio's restaurant at all three locations. J. Schrader has approached St. Nicholas Brewing Co. about doing an event there later in the semester. Working with McNitt Growers, a plant sale will take place around Mother's Day. The customer will take the voucher to pick out what plant(s) they want. C. Vick spoke about a possible fall mum sale. E. Franklin spoke about selling pumpkins, too.
5. **Elections – Tony Travelstead** – The committee has not met. On April 9, 2026, they will review election results. Write-ins are being considered for the Administration and Finance Sector since not enough people ran for the election.
6. **Public Information – Thomas Becker** – The committee met a few times. The HR Open Forum was March 18, 2026. The format was different than what was communicated in advance. The change generated confusion. Council members expressed concerns even though constituents were able to send their questions in advance. Over 125 people attended the open forum. A. Coward suggested having information about the event posted on the Civil Service Council website. E. Cheek suggested having the recording posted, too.

Motion: T. Richarson

Second: A. Coward

A vote commenced. All approved to have the 3/18/26 HR open forum video and list of questions/information from the council posted on the Civil Service Council website.

Changes to Extended Sick Leave was discussed. M. Schoonover stated fiancés count toward ESL. A council newsletter will be available in the spring.

7. **Range – Tony Travelstead/Ann Coward** – Committee met on March 23, 2026, to go over the letters they plan to submit to HR (FOIA) to have questions answered regarding the CBIZ compensation study. A copy of the letters are in Teams. C. Coward stated there are people being paid in excess of the maximum range.

Motion: E. Vick

Second: A. Coward

A vote commenced. The council agreed on the content of the letters (one is about the results of CBIZ compensation study and other is about redeterminations) to be sent to HR.

E. Constituency Committees

1. **Academic Calendar Committee – Todd Duermyer – (no report)**
2. **Advisory Committee to the Director of Public Safety – Andy Hawkins**
The committee met on March 23, 2026, to review the crime data for the campus and upcoming events. There was a Parking Amnesty Day two days ago. People could donate food for up to a \$35 ticket. At Faner Plaza there will be a Saluki Cares Day on April 8, 2026, and then Sex in the Spring event will be April 15, 2026. The Criminal Justice Department is starting an internship for cold case investigation. The position is without pay, but you would get class credit if you were involved. They are also looking at doing a RAD self-defense class. RAD is an abbreviation for Rape, Aggression, and Defense.

That time and date is still to be determined.

3. **Technology Advisory Committee – Ann Coward – (no report)**
4. **Honorary Degrees – Todd Duermyer – (no report)**
5. **Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory – A. Travelstead** - Committee has not met.
6. **Naming University Facilities – Marianne Schoonover** – The committee met today. The following were approved.
 - Danielle C. Baker Information Desk at Morris Library - \$25k gift
 - Deaconess Illinois Wellness Suite in the Community Care and Education Center, which is located in University Hall – and -
 - Deaconess Illinois Serenity Room in Mae Smith Hall, which is Health and Human Services LLC Learning Living Community - \$454k commitment supporting scholarships and mission advancing enhancements within the College of Health & Human Sciences
 - Kiewit Heavy Duty Center at the Transportation Education Center from the Kiewit Corporation – they are in the discussion now for this gift
7. **Parking and Traffic Appeals – Mickel Cordes** - Committee has not met.
8. **Recreational Sports and Services Advisory – Shari Garnett – (no report)**
9. **Student Center Advisory – Todd Duermyer – (no report)**
10. **Traffic and Parking – Stacia Werner** – The committee has not met. No report.
11. **University Joint Benefits –Dina Timmons/Elizabeth Cheek** – Committee has not met.
12. **Staff Excellence Committee – Cyndy Green** – We have not heard when the ceremony will be or if the nominations were approved, but it's usually in April when it happens.

F. Special/Other

1. **Chancellor's Planning and Budget – Elizabeth Cheek/Marianne Schoonover**
Committee has not met.
2. **Employee Advisory Committee to the Merit Board – Elizabeth Cheek**
The next meeting is at ISU, April 21-22, 2026.
3. **Legislative Advisory – Ann Coward** – Check the legislative folder in Teams for Department of Education information.
4. **Network Empowering Women Committee – Diane McIntyre – (no report)**
5. **System Staff Advisory – Elizabeth Cheek** – The committee has not met.
6. **COLA Dean Search Committee – Dina Timmons** – The committee has not met. The process was put on hold.

IX. Old Business

- **Future Guests:** No guest for May 2026.

X. New Business

- T. Becker suggested adding the Interim Provost Search. He is on the search committee. The committee met three times and the job was posted.
- E. Cheek stated People Finder will retire and shift to Microsoft 365 tools for directory use. It was published in SIU Today.

XI. Non-Agenda Items

- A. Travelstead may not be at the council meeting in May.

XII. Adjournment

- Motion: A. Travelstead
Second: A. Coward