

2026-2027 CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL
Wednesday, July 1, 2026
Student Services Building Room 307
1:00 PM

I. Call to Order

The July 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, Cyndy Green, Amelia Ketzle, Kristen Matthews, Terry Richardson, Marianne Schoonover, Jamie Schrader, Carolyn Smith, Anthony Travelstead, and Nicole Wood.

Absent: Liz Franklin, Diane McIntyre, Dina Timmons, and Josh Tripp.

Guests: Ian Hayano, Melissa Laake, Ben Newman, and Kristie Parkins.

III. Guest Speaker – Ben Newman, Director of Department of Public Safety

Ben Newman, Director of SIU's Department of Public Safety (DPS), provided an overview of the department's operations, priorities, and safety initiatives. Chief Newman has served at SIU since 2013 and brings 28 years of law enforcement experience along with a doctorate in criminal justice. DPS consists of approximately 40 police officers, operates a full-time dispatch center, manages parking services, and provides 24/7 public safety support. In 2025, DPS conducted approximately 1,200 presentations and outreach programs across campus, which Chief Newman highlighted as a significant achievement in fostering positive community relationships. The department is also working to modernize parking operations and technology. Chief Newman reviewed campus crime statistics, noting that SIU's crime rates compare favorably with peer institutions. He emphasized that the most common campus crime is theft resulting from crimes of opportunity, such as unlocked bicycles. Addressing concerns about immigration enforcement, Chief Newman explained that Illinois' TRUST Act and VOICES Act prohibit campus police from assisting federal immigration enforcement activities. DPS does not facilitate access for immigration officials but would respond appropriately to criminal matters involving valid federal warrants. Faculty and staff are encouraged to contact DPS or university legal counsel if immigration officials appear on campus seeking information. Community members play a critical role in identifying concerning behavior and reporting it through supervisors, the SAFE reporting system, Saluki Cares, or directly to DPS. He emphasized that early reporting allows multidisciplinary teams, including Student Affairs, Labor and Employee Relations, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and DPS, to evaluate and address potential threats before they escalate. He encouraged faculty, staff, and students to stay informed through RAVE emergency alerts and the LiveSafe app, which allows users to communicate directly with dispatchers, share photos and videos, and report concerns in real time. In discussing active threat situations, Chief Newman reinforced the "Run, Hide, Fight" model and encouraged individuals to prioritize reaching safety before calling 911. During the question-and-answer session, Newman addressed parking concerns, solar carport projects, and the financial challenges of maintaining and expanding parking facilities. He explained that parking fees fund lot maintenance, snow removal, lighting, striping, and portions of DPS operations. Rising maintenance and construction costs may require future adjustments to parking fees. He also discussed technology and artificial intelligence in policing, noting that Illinois law limits the use of facial recognition technologies. DPS currently uses tools such as drones and license plate readers but does not employ integrated facial recognition systems. Future AI applications would likely focus on administrative tasks such as report analysis rather than surveillance. Overall, Newman emphasized that maintaining campus safety is a shared responsibility and encouraged continued partnership between DPS and the university community to support a secure learning and working environment.

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

V. **Public Comments - (*none*)**

VI. **Approval of the Minutes for June 3, 2026**

Motion: T. Richardson

Second: A. Travelstead

A vote commenced: 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The minutes from June 3, 2026, were approved as presented.

VII. **Announcements** – Thomas Becker accepted an AP Staff position. Today is his last day serving on the Civil Service Council.

VIII. **Reports**

A. Council President

1. **Chancellor's Meeting** – The committee has not met. Meetings will resume in August.
2. **Board of Trustees' Meeting** – The next meeting is July 9, 2026, at Southern Illinois University, School of Medicine in Springfield. A link to the agenda was provided to all Council members via email.

B. School of Medicine Civil Service Council – *Kristie Parkins/Andrea Mumaw* – The Board of Trustees will have a meeting next week. We are preparing for the transition of the new Dean to come in August. We have started planning for the Employee Appreciation Week. The first meeting was today.

C. Annuitants Association – (*no report*)

D. Council Committees

1. **Executive/Budget – *Tony Travelstead*** – They met and amended the committee assignments due to Thomas Becker leaving Civil Service Council. The next highest vote from the election was contacted and Ian Hayano accepted the seat. He will take Thomas' seat. The updated committee assignments are in Teams. Cyndy Green volunteered to serve on Public Information Committee. This committee will put together the newsletter and the next open forum with administration.
2. **Bylaws – *Marianne Schoonover*** – The committee has not met. They expect to elect a Chair at the July meeting. The bylaws will need to be updated after AVC Nick Wortman's title changes to Vice Chancellor Nick Wortman as Council sectors may change due to a change in his reporting line.
3. **Civil Service Benefits – *Odessa Colombo/Amelia Ketzle*** – The committee has not met.
4. **Education Assistance – *Tony Travelstead*** – The committee met on Monday and elected Co-Chairs: Diane McIntyre and Anthony Travelstead. They are waiting on the Silkworm apparel sale information. The committee will meet the second week of July to discuss candidates for awards. A special meeting may be held to approve awards before the August council meeting.
5. **Elections – *Tony Travelstead*** – The committee has not met.
 - a. **Officer Elections for Vice President & Secretary**

A. Travelstead withdrew his name from the ballot. Chair C. Green conducted the election with ballots given in person and online. Once the Vice President's role was filled, C. Green resigned from being Chair of the Elections Committee and nominated O. Colombo for Chair. O. Colombo assumed the Chair role to finish the Secretary election.

Spring 2026 Election Results:

Vice President: Terry Richardson (13 yeas and 1 write-in nomination)

Secretary: Cyndy Green (unanimous vote for approval)

Motion: M. Schoonover

Second: J. Schrader

A vote commenced and all approved to destroy the Spring 2026 Vice President Election ballots.

Motion: A. Travelstead

Second: T. Richardson

A vote commenced and all approved to destroy the Spring 2026 Secretary Election ballots.

6. **Public Information – *Thomas Becker*** - The committee met but did not have a quorum. They will need to elect a Chair. C. Green will call a meeting.

7. **Range – *Tony Travelstead/Ann Coward*** – The committee met yesterday and A. Travelstead and A. Coward are Co-Chairs.

E. Constituency Committees

1. **Academic Calendar Committee – *Todd Duermyer*** – (no report)

2. **Advisory Committee to the Director of Public Safety – *Andy Hawkins***

The committee has not met. No report.

3. **Technology Advisory Committee – *Ann Coward*** – The committee has not met.

4. **Honorary Degrees – *Todd Duermyer*** – (no report)

5. **Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory – *A. Travelstead*** – The committee has not met.

6. **Naming University Facilities – *Marianne Schoonover*** – The committee met June 5, 2026, and made recommendations for the following. Bruce and Janet Fohr gave a \$250k gift for the Bruce and Janet Fohr Virtual Reality Career Lab in Rehn Hall. Jeffrey A. Boehler and Barbara L. Boehler established the Boehler Family Scholarship Endowment and a \$150k pledge to support the First Saluki Center. Major General (Ret.) William L. Enyart and Judge (Ret.) Annette A. Eckert gave a \$75k gift for the Judge Annette A. Eckert & Major General William Enyart Metro East Experiential Learning Annex for the SIU Simmons Law School, but is located at the Southwestern Illinois Justice and Workforce Development Campus. Jeffery M. Leving's \$150k gift was for the Jeffery M. Leving Rare Book and Legal History Room at the law building. The naming opportunities for the Saluki Stadium were mentioned, and the document is in Teams.

7. **Parking and Traffic Appeals – *Mickel Cordes*** – The 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*** – The committee has not met.

12. **Staff Excellence Committee** – The committee has not met. C. Green stated they will meet in July.

F. Special/Other

1. **Chancellor's Planning and Budget – *Elizabeth Cheek/Marianne Schoonover***

The committee has not met.

2. **Employee Advisory Committee to the Merit Board – *Elizabeth Cheek***

The next meeting is July 22-23, 2026, in Champaign.

3. **Legislative Advisory – *Ann Coward*** – The committee has not met.

4. **Network Empowering Women Committee – *Diane McIntyre*** – (no report)

5. **System Staff Advisory – *Elizabeth Cheek*** – The committee has not met. Everyone is encouraged to attend the leadership workshops.

6. **COLA Dean Search Committee – *Dina Timmons*** – (no report)

7. **Provost Search** – E. Cheek stated a search firm will begin their work in late August. At that time, a search committee will be formed, and civil service will be asked to participate in this process.

8. Human Resources Searches – Director of Payroll and Director of Employee Benefits – Elizabeth Cheek – The interview process has been completed.

IX. Old Business

- **Future Guests – August (no guest speaker due to group photo)**
- **Council Compensation 2030 Working Group** – The group continues to work through the initial FOIA requests with the Public Access Counselor at the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, as this process is ongoing.
- **Card & Flower Fund:** M. Cordes is still collecting money.
- **Council Group Photo:** Please meet at 12:45 p.m. inside the Student Services Building on August 5, 2026.

X. New Business

- M. Schoonover stated the new 1869 Grill at the Student Center will open in August 2026.

XI. Non-Agenda Items

- A. Travelstead stated represented and non-represented staff now have 20 days of sick time starting today (non-accrued sick time) in addition to their accrual sick time.
- Headshots and bios from new council members are needed for the website.

XII. Adjournment

Motion: A. Travelstead

Second: M. Schoonover