Hello Shockers!

It’s spring time! I’m usually a cold weather girl, but I couldn’t live anywhere without the change of the seasons. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful campus and the spring really shows it off, especially when the flowers are in full bloom around our outdoor sculptures. I’m so thankful to our colleagues who work hard to make our campuses wonderful places to work. Many times they go unseen until something looks ugly, breaks or needs to be cleaned. Please take a moment to thank those who are responsible when you see them!

University Support Staff Senate elections are in full “bloom” too! We have wrapped up the nomination portion and will open up the final voting for elected senators April 18 to April 22. Don’t miss out on your opportunity to help shape the senate whose main purpose is to promote your issues to university administration.

One issue that is having an effect on everyone is our recent budget issue. I urge you to share your questions or concerns with myself or your senators. We meet monthly to discuss any issues you may have and share information with each other that we can pass along to you. This is our opportunity to be your voice to university administration.

Stemming from the budget issue, we saw an acknowledgment from President Bardo that jobs are his priority through all this. While we all would love to see a raise implemented, we also agree that it most likely won’t happen with this budget or the next fiscal year budget. This has a snowball effect on morale. What can we do to improve morale? What can the university do to recruit and retain good employees? These are questions that I’m asking administration, senators and you. What are your ideas? Let us know!

Another issue the senate has been working on is the leave equalization policy. I’m happy to report that it has finally made some progress at the Kansas Board of Regents. At the April meeting, we anticipate seeing the language of the new policy. After the language is written, we expect it to go to the full Board for a vote in May. Just in time for the new fiscal year!

The CBIZ study continues to be reviewed by university administration. That’s the good news. Unfortunately, the budget issue has pushed to the top of everyone’s priorities. As soon as the reviews are complete, a final draft will be submitted for approval. Then the approved documents will be shared with employees. I know that there are a lot of questions and dissatisfaction from staff regarding the process. Your senators and I will continue to pursue this matter. We would all like to see some movement with this project.

Performance evaluations has been an issue the senate has worked on for quite a while now. The new system has been implemented and training is on-going with all staff. Give us your input. Do you like the new evaluation? Do you like the new tool to do the evaluations?

As this senate year wraps up, there’s at least one more issue on horizon that has yet to reach its full bloom. The opportunity for USS to convert to UP. Please take all the time you need and use all the resources available to you when making this decision. For some, it’s an easy choice. For others, it’s not. In May, the senate will have a guest presenter who will talk about the different retirement options. I hope that you will make the time to hear what is shared! Continued on page 2
I have been honored to serve you all as president of the USS senate this past year. I thank all the senators who served alongside me this year too. My hope is that you feel the senate has worked hard for you. If you would like to see some changes made on campus, I encourage you to get involved or talk to your senator or myself. That’s the only way change happens. Now, it’s time to get out and enjoy this beautiful time of year. It’s a great day to be a Shocker!

President, University Support Staff Senate
stacy.salters@wichita.edu

University Support Staff President's Awards
Congratulations to the 2016 USS Winners!

Susan Carroll
Accountant III, Financial Operations

Randy Sessions
Technician III, Telecommunications Services

Nancy Thompson
Transactions and Records Manager,
Office of Human Resources
University Support Staff Senate Elections

April 18-22

USS employees are encouraged to vote in the upcoming elections.

The USS Senate exists to promote the interests of all USS employees, to provide an open forum for the expression of these interests, and to regularize the exchange of information between administrators, faculty, students and employees of the University.

Your vote counts!

Shocker Employee & Dependent Scholarship

HELP US GROW!

Donate now and choose how often you’d like to give - one time, each semester or more often.

There are two ways to give:

.getActiveItem()

Online at the WSU Foundation website: HTTPS://FOUNDATION.WICHITA.EDU/GIVE

Via WSU Payroll deduction form available at: WWW.WICHITA.EDU/ USS

See “SCHOLARSHIP” link for details
Shocker Employee and Dependent Scholarship

University Support Staff (USS) Senate of Wichita State University (WSU) shall exist to promote the interests of all USS employees, to provide an open forum for the expression of these interests, and to facilitate the exchange of information between administrators / faculty / students and USS staff of the University.

The Shocker Employee and Dependent Scholarship was established with contributions to the Wichita State University Foundation and is sponsored by The USS Senate. Our ultimate goal in establishing this scholarship is to help in the advancement of WSU employees and their dependents. The USS Senate feels by establishing a scholarship for WSU employees/dependents they are encouraging employees/dependents to start or continue toward a bachelor’s degree.

Scholarship recipients must meet the following criteria:
- Be a current WSU employee, spouse or dependent of WSU employee
- Meet The USS Senate scholarship guidelines
- Be fully admitted to WSU in a degree bound program
- Be seeking their 1st Undergraduate Degree
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average
- Must meet WSU Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements

Complete written essay

Download application here

Applications must be received in the Office of Financial Aid by close of business on deadline dates:

Deadline Dates: Fall - June 1st Spring - November 1st
Tobacco Free Campus Update

Tobacco Free Committee members have met extensively with key people across campus to inform, discuss, and listen to feedback, concerns, etc. Then a draft of the Policy went to Legal the first week of February as scheduled.

The Legal team will create a final draft, which is expected to get to the Executive Team for final approval. The committee is hopeful the President will announce the policy before the semester’s end for the Policy to be effective July 1, 2017.

Sustainable Efforts Committee

The Sustainable Efforts Committee has come together to assess the WSU campus and the sustainable efforts that are already in place in order to think of new efficient ways to expand those efforts. For more information on what we’re doing for sustainability on campus go to: Sustainable Efforts

The Crisis Management team has formed a Weapons Possession Policy Committee to write the university policy regarding the new law that goes into effect in 2017. There will be on-going meetings over the next few months. The committee will be seeking university input via town hall gatherings.

The Professional Development Committee, with senators from the UP & USS senates, has completed a survey. They will be focusing on the results of that survey & how best to provide employees with the development they requested. Thanks for participating & giving your feedback!

Do you have Concerns, Suggestions or Praises?

Send us an “anonymous note” if you wish to make a suggestion to the University Support Staff Senate, Campus Box 114. We will do our best to make it happen. We want to know your concerns. Remember though, sometimes the way to change something is to…. get involved and give us your great ideas.