Hi Shockers!

It has been an exciting and busy six months in the Senate. It has been an honor to serve as your Senate President and after a little rest and relaxation with family and friends, your Senators and I will hit the ground running to finish the 2015-2016 Senate year strong.

In the past six months, the Senate has been working on the USS leave equalization, hosted a Welcome event, given out scholarships, is helping to plan the annual Shocker Pride celebration, is planning opportunities to give back to the community, working with the Tobacco-free initiative and Sustainable Efforts committees, and assisting university administration as they continue to keep our campus safe. This is a team effort and I thank each Senator and volunteer for their help and support in all these areas.

In October, the Senate hosted a Welcome event for all University Support Staff. Thank you to those who came. We want this to be an annual event that will grow to include more issues and topics that are important to you. If you have suggestions or want to be involved in planning it, please contact your Senator and let them know.

The Shocker Pride Committee is in the process of helping to plan the next Shocker Pride celebration which will be April 6, 2016. They are seeking nominations for the President's Distinguished Service Award for USS Staff. 3 awards are given every year going back to 1994. To find out more about previous recipients, you can find the list here [http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=uss&p=/awards/](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=uss&p=/awards/). You can find the nomination form here [http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=uss&p=/awardsnominationform/](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=uss&p=/awardsnominationform/).

In the next few months, the leave equalization should be presented to the Kansas Board of Regents with the goal of implementation for fiscal year 2017. This has been a long process that has been frustrating to all of us. It has also shown us the bureaucracy that our university administration deals with daily. I want to thank President Bardo and his executive team for their support to get this through all the red tape and into place for all University Support Staff.

This month, Human Resources hosted a preliminary meeting regarding the CBIZ results. Ed Rataj, from CBIZ, came and spoke about the methodology used to produce the results for WSU. Over the next few months, the campus should find out more specifics about this process and how it will affect us individually. HR is anticipating these changes to go into effect for fiscal year 2017. I know the entire campus is eagerly waiting more information. Your Senators and I will continue to watch this process unfold and help keep you informed. Recently, by suggestion of the Presidents Executive Team, HR has begun another project. An optional choice for USS employees to convert to UP. More specific information will be coming in January 2016 from HR. You can visit the Senate website, [http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=uss&p=/uss_to_up/](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=uss&p=/uss_to_up/), for an update from our most recent Senate meeting.

Our next few months will be busier than our last few, but I am up for the challenge and looking forward to representing the University Support Staff through all the coming challenges. I could not do it without your devoted Senators. I thank them for their service and look forward to working with them next year.

Happy Holidays,

stacy.salters@wichita.edu

P.S. Be on the lookout for new performance evaluations and a new process for them!
USS Staff Open House 2015

It was a fun afternoon at the University Support Staff Senate 2015 Open House held at the RSC Wednesday, October 14th, 3:30-5 p.m. This was a chance to meet your senator and learn the issues that affect USS employees. Information was shared about how to get involved and light refreshments were served.

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.
Spring 2016 Shocker Employee & Dependent Scholarship Winner is Thao Nguyen

Thao Nguyen is currently working as the Senior Supplemental Instructor in the Office of Student Success. Besides working part time in that office, she has held many other positions on campus, such as Student Assistant for Career Services, Career Development and the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center. She is also a full time student here at Wichita State University majoring in Biology/Pre-Med.

She is a busy lady and will be graduating soon and she plans to pursue her dream to become a doctor. She would like to work with trauma and stroke patients in a time sensitive environment because she believes that is when the patients really need a doctor the most. Her goal is not only to help people get better but to also inspire others around her, healthy or not, to become more. She recently said; “I was not born with all the talents in the world and I was not born with the brightest mind out there, but I do believe that if I work hard enough, I can reach my dreams and turn them into reality.”

John Bardo Announces SEM Steering Committee Members

As part of the Strategic Enrollment Management planning process announced by President Bardo on Monday, Gina Crabtree, registrar and director of Enrollment Services, and David Wright, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and chief data office, will chair the 10-member SEM Steering Committee. For information on the entire steering committee and its primary functions, go to SEM News.

Gun Survey Emailed

The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents has asked the Docking Institute to conduct a survey to measure faculty and staff members' opinions and preferences for policies regarding the carrying of guns on university campuses. Participation is voluntary, and your responses will remain confidential. You may skip any question you do not want to answer. If you would like to participate but did not receive the survey email please contact your senator and they will have it sent to you.