

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLASSIFIED SENATE

FROM THE USSS PRESIDENT:

As I write this, we are almost exactly half way through the Summer. For most of us it has been a busy and eventful time.

One of the most interesting things to happen this Spring has been the awakening of the State Legislature to the dire straits into which the pay plan for classified employees has sunk. In this year's legislative session an unusual amount of attention was paid to that pay plan, and some attempt was made to correct the worst problems. On the whole, the plan is still inadequate, but for the first time in years, state employees were a topic of important discussions and actions.

Beyond a short-term fix for the coming fiscal year, the Legislature took an additional, important step in creating the State Employee Compensation Oversight Commission. This group has been charged with examining the existing pay plan in detail, identifying the problems, and making recommendations for change. They held a hearing on Monday, 6/25/07 to get input from both the management and labor sides of the state workforce. If you want to know more about what is happening with this commission, check out their website at <http://www.kansas.gov/employee/comp/>.

While the University Support Staff are no longer classified as it relates to pay issues, we are still State employees, and the recommendations of the SECOC will have an effect upon us. More importantly, it seems likely we will have an effect upon them. They are facing many of the same issues that came up when we created the USS concept, and when I testified on our behalf about those concerns I was able to respond, "here's the action we took." It is my belief that at least part of what triggered this new found awareness that the old system had major problems was that KU employees wanted out of it.

Since we made that change, University Support Staff have generally done better in terms of raises than our still classified counterparts. As I write this, the Regents have not officially acted on KU's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, but it appears that we will beat their figures for a third time. The University has been living up to its stated intention to at least match and beat if possible, what the state does in terms of pay increases. If SECOC comes up with a good plan and the Legislature enacts it, I believe things will only get better.

Dennis Constance

EVALUATION OF SUPERVISORS

A group of volunteers from the University Support Staff Senate has formed a task force to explore the possibilities of input from workers becoming a part of their supervisor's evaluation. Watch for more about this in a future newsletter.

Dennis Constance

TUITION ASSISTANCE

FALL SEMESTER DEADLINE IS 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2007.

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is available to staff with six months of KU employment. The program normally covers tuition for one class per semester. Classes should be structured courses that meet on a scheduled basis with days and times published in the Timetable of Classes. The tuition assistance application form is available on the Human Resources website under forms download. For more information, contact Lynn George, at 864-7415. Applications should be forwarded to the Tuition Assistance Committee, c/o Human Resources, 103 Carruth-O'Leary Hall. Please note: fill in the amount of tuition to the best of your ability. Once tuition rates are set, the amount will be adjusted accordingly on your application.

**COMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE:
ONLINE USS NEWSLETTER!**

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT STAFF SENATE MEETING SCHEDULE

The University Support Staff will meet on the following dates from 10:30 a.m. – Noon, in the Kansas Union. All meetings are open to the public.

07/18/07	Cancelled
08/08/07	Parlor ABC
09/12/07	Parlor ABC
10/10/07	Centennial
11/14/07	Parlor ABC
12/12/07	Parlor ABC
01/09/08	Parlor ABC
02/13/08	Alderson
03/12/08	Centennial
04/09/08	Parlor ABC
05/14/08	Parlor ABC
06/11/08	Parlor ABC

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The University Support Staff Senate Executive Board will meet on the following dates from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., in the Kansas Union.

07/11/07	International
08/01/07	International
09/12/07	International
10/03/07	International
11/07/07	English
12/05/07	International
01/02/08	International
02/06/08	International
03/05/08	International
04/02/08	International
05/07/08	International
06/04/08	International

If you are interested in becoming a member of a governing body, please email: USSS@ku.edu of your interest. Please explore the web site for information on the Senate <http://www2.ku.edu/~clsenate/>

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to **Jerry Wilson** for being elected Employee of the Year for 2007.



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Amy Pabst, Administrative Associate in the Department of Aerospace Engineering – May 2007.

Jo Nell Proctor, Accountant III at the KU Libraries – April 2007.

Penny Lynn Fritts, Graduate Secretary in the Department of Sociology – March 2007.

Betty Vincent, Administrative Associate at the Hall Center for the Humanities – February 2007.

Jerry Wilson, Custodial Services in the Department of Facilities Operations – January 2007.

Congratulations to all of you for the recognition of your hard work and for your representation of University Support Staff at KU!



MULCH SWEETER THAN BEFORE!

We would like to thank the Facilities Operations for the "Sweet" smelling mulch this year!

ATTENTION UNIVERSITY SUPPORT STAFF

Can you make a difference and contribute to the community of KU. Contact us at www.ku.edu/~clsenate/ or e-mail the Webmaster (clsenate@ku.edu). We are soliciting names from all EEO categories.



Help us learn more about DEPRESSION

Depression is the 4th leading cause of disability and death worldwide.

Approximately 1 in 12 Americans will experience depression in their lifetime.

YOU can help!

Our research group measures brain activity and behavioral responses to emotional words and pictures.

We need people age 21 and older from the Lawrence community who have no history of depression to act as participants in our study.

If you join the study, you will participate in both a clinical interview and experiment session when you first come in and will repeat the interview and experiment session three months later.

Participants are all paid \$12 per hour.

For more information call: **864-4274** and leave a message for **Natalie Stoupe**.



OFFICERS

President – Dennis Constance
 Vice President – Doug Carter
 Secretary – Kathy Stiers
 Treasurer – Sharon Lee Green
 Ex-Officio – Kathy Jansen

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 Jay Barnard - co-chair
 Betty Childers Brad Gilges
 Brian Hanabury Renee Wiggins
 Maxine Younes

IAPR

Kathy Stiers – chair
 Sharon Lee Green Wayne Hathaway
 Delores Leonard Maxine Younes

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 Jay Barnard Linda Gerdes
 Sharon Lee Green Wayne Hathaway
 Amanda Reasoner

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UNCLASSIFIED SENATE REP

Maxine Younes

SENEX REP

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UNITED WAY

VACANT

HR/EO REP

Cindy Nitcher

**ACADEMIC COMPUTING
AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Brian Hanabury

**ACADEMIC
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CALENDAR COMMITTEE

Cindy Sexton

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Renee Wiggins

ORGANIZATION & ADMIN.

Vacant

PLANNING & RESOURCES

Kathy Jansen

PARKING COMMISSION

Bette Luther (2008)
 Kathy Reed (2009)

**RETIREES RIGHTS AND
BENEFITS**

Linda Gerdes
 Jeanne Torneden, retired staff member

LIBRARY APPEALS

Vacant

LIBRARIES

Mary Ann Baker

SENATORS**TBA - EEO 3 Rep**

Linda Gerdes Judy Greenberg
 Bev Nightingale

Diana Koslowsky - EEO 4 Rep

Janice Andes Mary Ann Baker
 Teri Chambers Betty Childers
 Jenna Coker Sharon Lee Green
 Brian Hanabury Delores Leonard
 Joseph Morgison Linda Orr
 Kathy Stiers Maxine Younes

Jay Barnard - EEO 5 Rep

Jay Barnard

Chris Wallace - EEO 6 Rep

Mike Auchard Allen Eastland
 Brad Gilges Wayne Hathaway
 Chris Wallace

TBA - EEO 7 Rep

Charlotte Goodman Lisa Sanchez

Representative At Large

Cynthia Davis Lindsey Hoover
 Diana Koslowsky Stephanie Miller
 Amanda Reasoner Cindy Sexton
 Renee Wiggins

WEB SITE UPDATE

www.ku.edu/~clsenate/

Please visit our website and feel free to e-mail the Webmaster (clsenate@ku.edu). Your input is appreciated.

HELPFUL WEB LINKS**KU Home Page**

www.ku.edu

KU Staff Benefits

www.hreo.ku.edu/new_faculty_staff

**Meeting Schedules For
KU USS Senate**

www.ku.edu/~clsenate/

On the menu, select 'Meeting Schedules'. Full Senate meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Visit the Academic Computer Center www.technology.ku.edu/ and check out the new Summer and Fall classes and online registration.

KU News, Arts, & Events are available at www.news.ku.edu/.

This newsletter created and designed by Co-Chair Delores Leonard, Co-Chair Sharon Lee Green, Teri Chambers, Allen Eastland, Wayne Hathaway, Amanda Reasoner and Lisa Sanchez. The University Support Staff Senate Communications Committee meets quarterly. If you have suggestions for articles, please call Delores Leonard (864-9720) or email us at clsenate@ku.edu.
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UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SUPPORT STAFF SENATE

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