

**FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY SUPPORT
STAFF SENATE**

As we begin the new semester, I hope each of you had enjoyable holidays to wrap up 2008 and are feeling primed and ready for another school term.

That may not be easy in light of the tough economic times that are upon us, especially since they have come upon us so rapidly. Food prices are up, energy costs are raising, and your water bill probably keeps getting higher. Many people have told me recently that their rent was projected to go up at the first of the year. Combine this with the news reports concerning financial institutions in disarray, people losing their homes, the money set aside for retirement may now be in jeopardy with other similar trials and it is not hard to believe you hear the wolf howling outside your door.

I hope that you have some reasons to feel better about these things. One plus that should provide some positive feelings, are the raises that a number of University Support Staff received in December. As you are probably aware, in 2008 the Kansas Legislature enacted new pay plans for classified staff that included a few significant market adjustments involving several job classes. The University, in keeping with its' stated intention to always do at least as well or better for USS as the State does for Classified Staff, is making adjustments similarly. It is important to note that they are doing this in the face of lean economic times.

The University Support Staff Senate is joining the effort where we can as well. Just before the start of this year's legislative session, I and some of the members of our Legislative Affairs Committee met with the Douglas County Delegation, to share with them our hopes regarding things they can do for us this year. We emphasized that the research and teaching that KU and the other Regents universities do must be recognized as a key part of what will strengthen the Kansas economy, and USS is critical to that mission.

To put it in terms that should be clear in an agricultural state, we have adopted to use this analogy. Every farmer knows that in hard times you have to refrain from eating the seed set aside for next season's planting, or you will have no way to recover. The universities, KU in particular, are the seed for the state's economic future, and therefore need to be kept financially healthy.

The USS Senate continues to work with our peers at K-State, Emporia, Pittsburg, Wichita, and Fort Hays State University. We will again be cooperating on a legislative information day, held on January 27th & 28th this year. If you would like to participate in one or both days, contact me, or another of our Legislative Affairs Co-chairs, Jay

Barnard and Betty Childers. The Senate Presidents from each of the Regents' schools also went to the Kansas Board of Regents meeting in Topeka to encourage their support for all State institutions and for us, the Support staff, as workers. It continues to be emphasized that we are the "Nuts & Bolts" of the institution.

The political process in Topeka may be drastically more important this year, far more so, than previous years. Participation is vital and you can help in numerous ways than by going to Topeka. Contact information for the legislators is published regularly by the Journal World, and can be found on the Governance website, or by following this URL: <http://www.uss.ku.edu/legcontacts.shtml>. Please let your voice be heard, simply write letters to your legislative representatives. Hand-written, simple, short, and straight-forward communication about what you want, and what is important to you, is best. Our hope is for strong financial support for KU from the Capitol. Even more helpful, encourage your family and friends who may live elsewhere in the Kansas to write letters to *their* legislators with the same requests. E-mail is generally not as helpful because it is more likely to get overlooked.

Finally, the University is hosting a legislative forum on Friday, January 23, at noon in the Kansas Union. Please attend if you possibly can do so. Bring your lunch and take advantage of this opportunity.

Dennis Constance

STAFF RIDES FREE ON KU OR T BUS!

All buses in Lawrence are now FREE for KU Staff, Faculty, and students. To board the bus off campus, you must show a current KU ID. If you do not have a current KU ID, you may get one for FREE at the KU Card Center, located on the 4th floor of the Kansas Union. You do not have to show ID to board the bus on campus. Please contact the KU Card Center at 864-5845 or visit their web site at www.kucard.ku.edu for further information.

Peggy Robinson

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION DAYS

Legislative Information Days are January 27th and 28th in Topeka. You may attend just one day or both days. You will need to use vacation days. Please contact Jay Barnard at jbarnard@ku.edu, Betty Childers at bchilder@ku.edu, or Dennis Constance at dcon@ku.edu for more information on this event.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Summer Semester Deadline: 5:00 PM Friday, April 3, 2009.

Due to the increased number of staff wanting to take advantage of the tuition assistance program, the application deadline has been moved up to allow more time to process application materials. The new deadlines are listed below and they will also be listed on the HR/EO web page at <http://www.hreo.ku.edu/>.

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
Spring	First Friday in November
Summer	First Friday in April
Fall	First Friday in July

For information about program guidelines and to access the most current application form, go to http://www.hreo.ku.edu/benefits_pay/benefits_info/tuition_assistance.

ATTENTION UNIVERSITY SUPPORT STAFF

Can you make a difference and contribute to the community of KU? Contact us at <http://www.uss.ku.edu> or e-mail the Webmaster (uss@ku.edu). If you would like to be on the University Support Staff Senate, we are soliciting names from all EEO categories. **We currently have vacancies which need to be filled.**

THE USSS WHEAT STATE WEE WHIRLWIND TOUR OCTOBER 13, 2008

The tour visited three places of interest in Kansas: The Land Institute of Salina, The Smokey Hill Wind Farm and The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is located near Council Grove, KS and is 10,861 acres of natural prairie grasses. The former Springhill ranch is part of this acreage and features the three beautiful buildings that are pictured.



Stone barn built in 1881 on Tallgrass Prairie Preserve



Farmhouse built in 1881 on Tallgrass Prairie Preserve



Outhouse built in 1881 on Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

The Land Institute of Salina has been in operation for over 20 years. They are a non profit organization developing major crop plants which can live for years and build deep root systems which will help hold the soil in place and produce crops without tilling every year. For more information, go to <http://www.landinstitute.org>.



Alfredo Paine, David Van Tassel, Francisco Calabi, and Damaris Reinike harvesting wild wheatgrass plants after two years of growth to be measured for seed production. Picture from website. Used by Permission.

The Smokey Hill Wind Farm is located on the northern side of I70 outside of Salina. The wind turbines are 80 meters tall. The blades are 77 meters. Fourteen thousand acres and over 80 landowners are a part of the project. The wind farm is one of several such projects planned for Kansas.



Wind Turbine located on The Smokey Hills Wind Farm



Wind Turbines located on The Smokey Hills Wind Farm

Pictures of the Tallgrass Prairie and the Wind Farm taken by USS members while on the tour.

IN MEMORY OF

In memory of **Allen Eastland**; who was a member of the University Support Staff Senate and employed by the Department of Student Housing for many years. He will be missed by his KU friends and family.

LOOKING FOR A JOB!

Are you applying for another job at KU or helping someone find a job at KU? If you or anyone you know has questions about the online job application process, the KU Human Resources Office can help with any questions you might have. Their contact number is 864-4946.

WEBSITE FOR RETIREES RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Did you know that there's a Committee on Retirees Rights and Benefits working for USS retirees and future retirees? You can look at the handbook for retirees at http://www.hreo.ku.edu/files/documents/Retirees_Handbook.pdf. If anyone has any questions about the CRRB or suggestions for them to consider, email Linda Gerdes at lgerdes@ku.edu.

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT STAFF SENATE MEETING

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.

02/11/09	Alcove J
03/11/09	International
04/08/09	International
05/13/09	International
06/10/09	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://www.uss.ku.edu/>

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.

02/04/09	International
03/04/09	International
04/01/09	International
05/06/09	International
06/03/09	International

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Sarah Greenwood, Administrative Associate Senior – French and Italian Department – September 2008.

Pamela Shadoin, Administrative Associate Senior – Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences – October 2008.

Cindy Sexton, Administrative Associate Senior – Psychology Department – November 2008.

Beth (Wanda) Lowe, Administrative Professional – Speech, Language and Hearing Department – December 2008.

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

OFFICERS

President – Dennis Constance
Vice President – Chris Wallace
Secretary – Kathy Stiers
Treasurer – Sharon Lee Green

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Jay Barnard – Co-Chair
 Betty Childers- Co-Chair
 Doug Carter Brad Gilges
 Wayne Hathaway Cayla Witty

IAPR

Kathy Stiers – Chair
 Jeannie Doering Delores Leonard

ELECTIONS

Chris Wallace – Chair
 Jay Barnard Linda Gerdes
 Sharon Lee Green Wayne Hathaway
 Delores Leonard

PERSONNEL

Diana Koslowsky – Chair
 Pat Argueta Teri Chambers
 Kathy Chaney Jenna Coker
 Jeannie Doering Isabelle Odegi
 Cindy Sexton Kathy Stiers

COMMUNICATIONS

Charlotte Goodman – Co-Chair
 Delores Leonard – Co-Chair
 Lea Chaffin Cynthia Davis
 Sharon Lee Green Wayne Hathaway
 Samantha Reinblatt Peggy Robinson

UNIVERSITY SENATE REPS

Mary Ann Baker Betty Childers
 Cayla Witty
 Dennis Constance – Ex-officio

UNCLASSIFIED SENATE REP

Peggy Robinson

SENEX REP

Mary Ann Baker
 Dennis Constance – Ex-officio

HR/EO REP

Cindy Nitcher

**ACADEMIC COMPUTING
 AND
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Lea Chaffin

ACADEMIC PROCEDURES & POLICIES

Kathy Stiers (2009)

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

Teri Chambers (2010)

CALENDAR COMMITTEE

Cindy Sexton (2009)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Renee Wiggins (2009)

LIBRARIES

Mary Ann Baker (2010)

LIBRARY APPEALS

Mark Lohmeyer (2009)

JUDICIAL BOARD

Betty Childers (2010)
 Cynthia Davis (2009)
 Pam Huff (2009)

ORGANIZATION & ADMIN.

Diana Koslowsky (2010)

PLANNING & RESOURCES

Kathy Jansen (2009)

PARKING COMMISSION

Mike LaBonte (2011)
 Kathy Reed (2009)

RETIREES RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Linda Gerdes (2009)
 Ruthie Hatfield (2011)

UNITED WAY

Dennis Constance

SENATORS

Vacant • EEO 3 Rep

Linda Gerdes

Teri Chambers • EEO 4 Rep

Mary Ann Baker Kathy Chaney
 Betty Childers Jenna Coker
 Cynthia Davis Jeannie Doering
 Sharon Lee Green Diana Koslowsky
 Delores Leonard Cindy Sexton
 Kathy Stiers Cayla Witty

Jay Barnard • EEO 5 Rep**Peggy Robinson • EEO 6 Rep**

Doug Carter Brad Gilges
 Wayne Hathaway

Charlotte Goodman • EEO 7Rep**Representative At Large**

Pat Argueta Lea Chaffin
 Isabelle Odegi Samantha Reinblatt
 Ken Sarber Karen Shore

WEB SITE UPDATE

<http://www.uss.ku.edu/> Please visit our website and feel free to e-mail the Webmaster (uss@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

<http://www.uss.ku.edu/>

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 is created and designed by Co-Chair Charlotte Goodman, Co-Chair Delores Leonard, Cynthia Davis, Wayne Hathaway, Sharon Lee Green, Leah Chaffin, Samantha Reinblatt, and Peggy Robinson. 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 www.uss.ku.edu/

©2005-2007 KU University Support Staff Senate

The next meeting of the USS Senate is scheduled for February 11, 2009 at 10:30 am in Alcove J at the Union.

University Support Staff Senate Nominations

Members elected to the University Support Staff Senate serve two years, beginning at the first full senate meeting in May. The Senate meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 10:30 – 12:00. The Executive Board, which is made up of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, EEO Representatives and Committee chairs, meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We have openings in all EEO categories. EEO categories and job titles may be found on our web site:

<http://www.uss.ku.edu/>, or you may contact University Governance, 864-5169.

If you're interested in being a member, or know someone who is, please complete the following information and return it to:

University Governance, 33 Strong Hall, or email the information to uss@ku.edu, or call 864-5169

Name: _____

Department: _____

Job Title: _____

EEO Category: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**RETURN TO:
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
SUPPORT STAFF SENATE
33 Strong Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045**