



University Staff Senate  
Spring 2018 Newsletter

**From the President and President-Elect**

Brian D. Moss and Michelle Ginavan Hayes

The main focus of this month's newsletter is to raise awareness about the upcoming KU Staff Senate elections. Staff Senate represents all staff on campus – including University Support Staff and Unclassified Professional Staff, from every unit and every job category. In our day-to-day activities, it's easy to get wrapped up in the needs of our individual units, but Staff Senate allows us the opportunity to network with colleagues as we come together to focus on issues that impact everyone across the university. Staff Senate provides opportunities to get involved, to grow, and to gain leadership experience. No matter where you work on campus, we hope that you'll consider running for Staff Senate so that we can continue to be a more diverse and truly representative body.

Continue reading for more information about the upcoming election, and visit <https://staffsenate.ku.edu> to learn more about Staff Senate. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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## **Elections Committee report – Andy Jackson (chair)**

Dear KU Staff,

We write to encourage you to participate in the Staff Senate for the 2018-2019 year! The Staff Senate will need to fill 15 seats with new senators this year, as well as elect a president-elect. An email calling for nominations to Staff Senate will be sent out in the coming days with a link to the Qualtrics form. You will be able to either self-nominate or nominate a colleague. **The deadline for nominations will be Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Why serve on Staff Senate? Here are a few reasons:

- Meet new colleagues, network, and collaborate across campus
- Be a voice for over 3,000 KU staff at the Lawrence and Edwards campuses
- Only 10-12 hours of Staff Senate meetings per year (12-1:30pm on the third Wednesday of each month, usually in Memorial Union)
- Get involved with or chair a Senate Committee: <https://staffsenate.ku.edu/committees>
- Serving as a senator looks great on your annual evaluation and resume

The Staff Senate is the governing body for all staff at the University of Kansas. We advocate on your behalf for workplace improvements, professional development opportunities, employee recognition, and more.

The three main purposes of the Staff Senate are:

- Represent the interests of all university support staff and unclassified professional staff at the Lawrence and Edwards campuses.
- Serve as a forum for member presentation and discussion of common concerns of employment (e.g., opportunities for professional development, salaries/benefits, evaluation standards, and procedures).
- Provide a formal mechanism for communicating common concerns to appropriate University and State officials.

Senators come to monthly meeting to and vote on issues that affect the staff. We need representation from all areas, all departments, and all job functions on the senate. For more information about KU Staff Senate, visit our website at <https://staffsenate.ku.edu>.

Best Regards and Rock Chalk!

KU Staff Senate Elections Committee

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### **Diversity & Inclusion Committee report**

Jeff Severin (jseverin@ku.edu) and Michelle D. Wilson (michellewilson@ku.edu)

Co-Chairs

A few upcoming KU DEI Events:

#### **Documentary: Chisholm '72**

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., KU Memorial Union

In honor of #BlackHistoryMonth, the Emily Taylor Center is pleased to present the second film in our SPRING DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION SERIES — 'Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed' (2004).

Please join us in The Crossroads (KU Memorial Union, Level 4) for a screening of 'Chisholm '72' followed by a discussion facilitated by ETC Program Coordinator Megan Williams.

**FILM DESCRIPTION:** Recalling a watershed event in US politics, this compelling documentary takes an in-depth look at the 1972 presidential campaign of Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and the first to seek nomination for the highest office in the land.

Following Chisholm from her own announcement of her candidacy through her historic speech in Miami at the Democratic National Convention, the story is a fight for inclusion. Shunned by the political establishment and the media, this longtime champion of marginalized Americans asked for support from people of color, women, gays, and young people newly empowered to vote at the age of 18. Chisholm's bid for an equal place on the presidential dais generated strong, even racist opposition. Yet her challenge to the status quo and her message about exercising the right to vote struck many as progressive and positive. Period footage and music, interviews with supporters, opponents, observers, and Chisholm's own commentary all illuminate her groundbreaking initiative, as well as political and social currents still very much alive today. <http://www.pbs.org/pov/chisholm/>

#### **Quick & Dirty: Intersectionality 101**

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Office of Multicultural Affairs

Please join Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity program coordinator Megan Williams for one of four Quick & Dirty: Intersectionality 101 presentations this spring. Wednesday 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, and 4/25 12 noon - 1 pm Office of Multicultural Affairs Room 116 NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

If you have accessibility needs and you wish to request accommodations for this event, please contact the KU Office of Disability Resources as soon as possible. They provide accommodation and services to all students who are eligible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY). Contact must be made at least 5 business days before the event to insure accommodation can be provided.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1511964075555681/>

### **Frank Waln, Sicangu Lakota hip-hop artist**

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Lied Center of Kansas- Performing Arts Center

Frank Waln is an award-winning Sicangu Lakota hip-hop artist and music producer from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. His awards include three Native American Music Awards, the Native American 40 Under 40, the Chicago Mayor's Award for Civic Engagement and the 3Arts Grant for Chicago Artists.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/117718665475694/>

For more DEI events, stay updated at <http://diversity.ku.edu/learnengage>

To add events from your department/unit to the KU DEI Events Calendar, please email Cody Case, DEI Program Coordinator, at [codycase@ku.edu](mailto:codycase@ku.edu) – or invite him via Facebook, and he will ensure the event is included in the calendar.

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### **Personnel Affairs Committee report**

Annette Delaney (chair)

The Staff Senate Personnel Affairs Committee is working on an effort to help staff, faculty, students, and the public more easily find what they are looking for on the University of Kansas webpages. Generally speaking, we've found that the search feature on the main KU.edu website provides the most comprehensive results.

KU departmental staff can help by testing searches on their own websites and cleaning up outdated information.

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## Professional Development Committee report

Abby Ehling (chair)

Staff Senate will host the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mini Wheat State tour later this spring. Each year the Mini Wheat State Tour brings together a group of KU staff from across the university to learn about issues and institutions of importance to the state. While the exact details are not yet available, we expect the event will take place in late May or early June.

Be on the lookout for more information as the spring semester progresses.



GET INVOLVED!

KU