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.

Comes IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

Online USS Newsletter!

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.

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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.

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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/](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.


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.


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 different and contribute to the community of KU. Contact us at [www.ku.edu/~clsenate/](http://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

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Mike Auchard – co-chair
Jay Barnard – co-chair
Betty Childers
Brian Hanabury
Maxine Younes

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

ELECTIONS
Chris Wallace – Chair
Jay Barnard
Sharon Lee Green
Wayne Hathaway
Amanda Reasoner

PERSONNEL
Maxine Younes – Chair
Janice Andes
Diana Koslowski
Cindy Sexton
Kathy Jansen

COMMUNICATIONS
Delores Leonard – Co-Chair
Sharon Lee Green – Co-Chair
Teri Chambers
Wayne Hathaway
Lisa Sanchez

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL REPS
Mary Ann Baker
Renee Wiggins

UNCLASSIFIED SENATE REP
Maxine Younes

SENX REP
Doug Carter

UNITED WAY
VACANT

HR/EO REP
Cindy Nitcher

ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Brian Hanabury

ACADEMIC PROCEDURES & POLICIES
Kathy Stiers

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 Tornden, retired staff member

LIBRARY APPEALS
Vacant

LIBRARIES
Mary Ann Baker

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.

Visit the KU News, Arts, & Events at www.news.ku.edu/

The next meeting of the University Support Staff Full Senate will be on August 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor ABC Room of the Kansas Union.