Full Senate Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2013

Attended: Jan Akers, Deanne Arensberg, Tom Boxberger, Sean Burkett, Teri Chambers, Kathy Chaney, Cynthia Davis, Debora Deering, Le-Thu Erazmus, Jane Gnojek, Sharon Green, Ruthie Hatfield, Patricia McCaffrey, Margaret Mahoney, Mary Murphy, Peggy Palmer, Terry Proctor, Peggy Robinson, Susan Shaw.

Excused: Delores Bernard, Betty Colbert, Lea Smith

Absent:

Guest: Kellie Harmon

Meeting called to order 10:35 a.m. Peggy Palmer introduced Kellie Harmon, University Ombuds Office, who presented information which USS staff might not know and should be aware of. KU is one of the few universities that have an Ombuds office. The USS senate members took turns to introduce themselves. Kellie is the first full-time assistant to the Ombuds Office. She comes to us with work experience from various positions within the University. At this time, she has two faculty members also in the Ombuds Office. The Ombuds Office helps everyone within KU; faculty, staff, students and even parents at times. They are an informal office, which mean they do not file any records or make any formal grievance. They operate independently, which means, they are not part of the academic hierarchy, and they are confidential which means they do not have to report anything to the campus. She gave various examples, issues and topics their office can help with. To meet with her, you have to either email or leave a message to make an appointment as there are no walk-in appointments.

SenEx meeting report: Peggy Palmer presented a card and KU scarf to the Molly Mulloy who will be retiring from KU after 23 years of service. The card thanked her for all her extra help in dealing with the University Support Staff Senate. Peggy read a thank you card from Molly. Peggy mentioned Molly’s retirement party has been scheduled on May 14th, Malott Room, Kansas Union, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Peggy introduced Terry Proctor, who replaces Barbara Walker as the HR Representative of USS Senate. Terry gave a quick introduction and shared what he does and his past USS senate work. We are lucky to have him join us again.

Treasurer’s Report, provided in the meeting notes sent out and is self-explanatory.

Lea Smith sent regrets for missing the council meeting but wanted to provide information about the upcoming retreat. We still do not have a guest speaker but if anyone has someone of interest or a topic please send Peggy this information.

Friendly reminder to do your Health Request points by July 31st. It saves you $480 on next year’s health insurance. Also if you did points but not your bio-meter report, that is also required.
Deb Teeter, Director of Office of Institutional Research and Planning requested help from USSS. There will be higher education learning commission accreditation next year and she is asking USS senate to provide committee staff. Need to know who would like to serve on the committees and nominations are to be turned in today. Please let Peggy know directly after the meeting if interested. Just because you are willing to be nominated, it does not mean you will be on the committee. This is an important task but it will take some time away from your job, so if you are picked, please let your supervisor know.

Teri Chambers, (Personnel Chair, thanks to Deb Deering), reported the committee discussed the smoking policy. The deadline was last week and there was a good turn out from staff and had 60% vote. It did past by 2/3 of those who voted. We were asked if we want to be a smoke free or tobacco free campus. At this point the smoke free is more important at this time. More information will be provided as they work on this more. The USS Personnel Handbook is being updated and has been recently worked on. One difference in the updated handbook that will affect USS is with sick leave. Teri stated that KBOR has a draft policy to use sick leave for other qualified adult that does not have live in your house and it did not include USS. KBOR is working on this policy. Ola brought this to our attention.

Mary Murphy, Communications Chair, reported they have been working very hard to get the newsletter out. She still has a few holes to fill in so if anyone has any ideas, please share. She is trying to do this publication electronically. However, does realize that for the FS department, they might ask for printed copies for display on their bulletin boards to make sure to include all USS staff. One suggestion might be to put the updated tuition assistance information updates. University Senate has been working for more than just the staff members to be eligible. Hope to include all part time or full time staff members, spouses, significant others or children up to 7 credits but this is still up for debate.

Peggy Palmer reported on behalf of Betty Colbert, Legislative Chair. They will be meeting in with CSSC at Pittsburg State University to meet on June 14. CSSC have asked for a half hour discussion with regards to leaving civil service and move to Alternative Service.

Other committee reports are in your hand outs.

Walk Talk Jayhawk, Mary Murphy has been our liaison; we have a celebration next week, May 14th at the KS Union. They have been walking at least once a week starting in March and it has been a great way to meet other folks on campus and get exercise. It was a great success and they will be doing this again next year both here and at the Edwards campus.

July Retreat-Jan Akers- committee chair, scheduled lunch at the Pistol & Mortar, Pharmacy building and they will be sending out the menu and prices. We are trying to get the approval to get the Provost Office to pay up to $7.50 per member. We are still working on the agenda. The retreat will be from noon to 4:00pm, Wednesday, July 10th.

KU Fights Hunger is a new initiative for a campus food drive. Lea-Thu was at the meeting yesterday, to reports they are inviting the Lawrence community to get involved and see what type of needs there are including KU campus. On October 17th, they
will be showing “A Place at the Table”. They are going to work with students at orientation along with faculty, staff and student organizations. Some ideas that were suggested is maybe on October 16th is World hunger Day and have a packaging food bin and inspiring change day on May 23rd and many other ideas. What we would like to do is see if the university and all the organizations could work together. We so many different things that do on, on campus but we would like to be a collaborate team.

For the USS Senate minutes from last month, we will try to send these out email with the vote button and we are hoping to get this out in the next week or so. Also you we are short of senate members and if you have anyone interested, please forward the information on.

We adjourned the meeting as 12:02pm