

# University Support Staff Senate

Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2021

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the University Support Staff Senate was called to order at 1:31pm on November 10, 2021 in Meadowlark, OSC by Jeannice Parker.

## **Present**

Barb Barto, Carrol Bell, Terri Blessent, Kevin Elrod, Michelle Hensley, Timothy James, Kay Jiles, Diane Letner, Woody Lopez, Jeannice Parker, Tony Pentola Terry Pierce, Stephanie Willis, Heather Winzer, Cindy VanBecelaere

Doug Ball, CFO; Mary Jo Meier, UPS Senate President; Shawnee Hendershot, Faculty Senate President; Lynne Merando, Mary Wolfe, Kim Grissom, Sundown Jacobs,

## **Approval of Minutes**

The October minutes were approved with corrections.

## **Guest Speaker – Doug Ball**

Discussed the use of State Funds are shared between the General Fund (day to day operations) and Specialty Functions (Housing, OSC). The General fund along with Tuition & Fees are used to pay 80% of salaries. FY21 we were given \$38 million from State Funds, that is basically the same as 14 years ago. Tuition & fees are down by \$5 million over the past few years. -He discussed Gorilla Advantage being extended to 30+ states this year in hopes of students coming from farther away. Graduate students could be included in a couple of years. -Online student fee distribution is being discussed. -KC Metro office is still open but mainly for public relations and recruiting, no courses are being taught there.

Covid -HEERF Monies. These were given as two separate funds; one for students and one for the university to use, but with several restrictions how to spend on the university level. KBOR allowed each university decide how these monies were to be spent. Students- There were three distributions of money sent to PSU. The first was very restricted, these restrictions were reduced as the monies were sent. The third distribution included even international students. Student monies were deemed nontaxable. University- Incentive checks were given for vaccinated employees and were taxed because they were cash gifts. We were able to apply the monies toward; Technology Upgrades, Air Quality & Filtration improvements, PPE & Supplies, Testing & Management, and Course Delivery & support.

Looking ahead, Mr. Balls concerns are salary increases (which Dr. Scott will be meeting with Gov. Kelly about on Nov. 16), deferred maintenance that KBOR is requiring, and our need of a new Student Information System. Pressures that could affect these concerns are reduced tuition revenue and the cost increases (utilities, employee benefits, insurance cost, and general inflation). Positive impacts are the growth of the freshman enrollment from previous year, the Gorilla Advantage expansion, Maintenance of Effort monies given to enhance recruiting and scholarships, and the state revenue has exceeded projections by \$175 million.

### **UPS President Report – Mary Jo Meier**

Amending by laws, next meeting 12/1/21 @ 2pm.

### **FS President Report – Shawnee Hendershot**

Nothing to report

### **Senate President's Report**

Senate President, Jeannice Parker, did not meet with Dr. Scott because the Town Hall coming up. Dr. Scott to meet with Gov. Kelly to discuss wage increases Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Treasurer's Report**

No new expenditures, accepted and passed.

### **Committee Reports**

**Elections:** One Senator position open

**Public Relations:** Nothing to report

**Welcoming Committee:** New Custodian, Shannah Farmer

**University Scholarship:** Nothing to report

**Parking Committee:** Position open, nothing to report

**Board of Governor's Committee:** OSC has hired a new custodian, Office of Diversity is eventually moving to OSC (downstairs area of Barnes & Noble), we voted to add a \$20 per hour charge for student groups that need in early or stay later than OSC regular hours, breakfast pizza is being served from Pizza Hut and Coke has reported there may be shortages of bottled water as well as other products, Barnes & Noble have finally received new merchandise and will be offering shipping of caps & gowns for \$5.

**University Revenue Planning Committee:** Nothing to report

**Strategic Planning Committee:** They are holding off on anything new until a new president is decided on, next meeting 11/19/21.

**Information Technology Council:** Phone upgrades coming, Roadmap (tool in GUS for degree audits) has rolled out, Faculty have a new tool in Canvas called UDOIT Cloud Course Checker, 892 users are now using the multi-factor security system now, IT training was completed with only 41 accounts being closed, currently answering questions for Cyber Security insurance, a committee has been formed to get the new SIS and IT has a new Admin, Gina Henry-Matter.

**Docking Institute Committee:** Survey will be out March of 2022 and with results back by Aug 2022.

**University Legislative Coordinating Committee:** Nothing to Report

**USS Incentive Benefits Committee:** Several options are being considered.

### **New Business**

#### **Request a Suspension of the Rules**

As of this date December 8, 2021 the University Support Staff Senate voted to temporarily suspend the By-laws in order to allow the current President in office to fulfill their normal term of service through the end of the present term, regardless of the employee's classification of employment. This amendment will sunset and no longer be effective at the end of 30th of June, 2021.

Delay action temporarily until Dec. 8th meeting to debate and ensure that a majority of the group agrees with the said action.

#### **Good of the Order**

Guest Speaker for the next meeting will be Lori Scott Dreiling - Little Known Benefits

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:07pm by Jeannice Parker. The next general meeting will be at 1:30pm on 12/8/21, in Meadowlark, OSC.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Hensley