



University Support Staff Senate

September 9th, 2020

President Terri Blessent called the meeting to order at 1:30. Senators present were Carrol Bell, Terri Blessent, Brandi Boswell, Ann Courtney, Tina Gregory, Michelle Hensley, Jerrica Lair, Terry Pierce, Tish Potter, Cindy Van Becelaere, Stephanie Willis, Mary Wolfe, and Woody Lopez. Guests present were Betty Geier, Randy Marietta, Jason Kegler, Dr. Cole Shewmake, and Dr. Steve Erwin. Senators Kathy Benard, Kevin Elrod, Diane Letner, and Jeannice Parker were excused. Jordan Harding and Dan Workman were also absent.

The minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. Terri requested a motion to approve – Tina Gregory so moved, Woody Lopez seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report, Mary Wolfe: No change from last month. Budget account \$2,380. Foundation, \$57.04. Terri requested a motion to approve the report. Carrol Bell moved to approve the report, Michelle Hensley seconded the motion, and the report was unanimously approved.

Jason Kegler, University Professional Staff Senate President, reported that the UPSS met last week. Committee assignments were filled and Dr. Scott spoke.

Cole Shewmake, Faculty Senate President, reported that the Faculty Senate will be meeting the last Monday of September.

Terri met with Dr. Scott. He is in Topeka for KBOR today, and will attempt to attend the October USSS meeting. He communicated the following:

1. KBOR wants all regent schools to defer major maintenance projects, particularly KU.
2. Gorilla Advantage added TN and TX to in-state tuition schools (formerly Edge schools). The eventual plan is for all state schools to get in-state tuition.
3. COVID-19 communication is crucial. Read Abby's emails to keep up; if people have complaints or questions remind them to read the emails and to ask Abby – kindness and patience are the best tools to help us operate smoothly in these circumstances.
4. Social Justice – new committee replacing the Diversity committee to keep us all united.

Committees:

Elections, Ann Courtney: no new information to report.

Public Relations, Ann Courtney: no new information to report.

Welcoming Committee, Diane Letner: Scarlett Bowles, new employee in Workforce Relations, received a welcome package.

Parking committee, Tish Potter: the committee has not met yet.

Board of Governors committee, Michelle Hensley: the committee has not met yet.

Strategic planning, Terri Blessent: the committee has not met yet.

Information Technology Council, Michelle Hensley: the committee met on September 8th for a meet-and-greet, but no business was conducted.

Campus safety and security, Betty Geier: Shawn said it may become a permanent committee but no news yet. The last meeting was in March.

USLCC, Terri Blessent: the committee has not met yet and might not meet until Spring.

University Revenue Planning Committee, Terry Pierce: the committee has not met yet.

Old business:

Three at-large seats remain open. Following the last meeting, Cindy Van Becelaere contacted Terri Blessent to express interest in one of the openings. Terri therefore nominated Cindy VanBecelaere and her membership was unanimously approved.

Cindy had also expressed interest in becoming the USSS Treasurer. Terri asked her to confirm her interest before the Senate, and Cindy did so. Michelle Hensley nominated Cindy Treasurer, Terry Pierce seconded the nomination, and her appointment as Treasurer was unanimously approved.

The annual Senate Photo was not taken today. At this time, the Senate would be required to wear masks. It was suggested that a photo of the Senate wearing masks would be a sign of the times, so it was decided that the photo will be taken in October, with masks if necessary.

New business:

Wichita State's USS/UPS requested volunteers for the next subcommittee to formulate the follow-up to the initial survey. It may not occur until Spring. Michelle Hensley, Terri Blessent, and Mary Wolfe volunteered.

The next USS Senate meeting will take place on October 14th at 1:30 pm in Grubbs 109.

Good of the order:

Betty Geier asked whether furloughs had been mentioned by the administration. Terri responded that Dr. Scott had said nothing of it, and that she had not heard anything from any other sources.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.