



Pittsburg State University  
University Support Staff Senate  
Minutes of Meeting, April 14, 2021

Senators present: Carrol Bell, Terri Blessent, Ann Courtney, Kevin Elrod, Betty Geier, Michelle Hensley, Jerrica Lair, Woody Lopez, Diane Letner, Jeannice Parker, Terry Pierce, Tish Potter, Cindy Van Becelaere, Stephanie Willis, Mary Wolfe, and Dan Workman. No guests were present. Jordan Harding was excused.

Call to order – Terri Blessent called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Review of March minutes: Carrol Bell moved to accept as written, Diane Letner seconded, and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report, Cindy Van Becelaere: Expenditures of \$62.14 from the Budget fund included printing of Senate photo, support staff card, and the Voya award to Carol Oehme, leaving a balance of \$2317.86. Foundation account balance was unchanged. Jeannice Parker moved to accept, Mary Wolfe seconded, and the report was accepted.

Other University Reports:

- UPS – Jason Kegler – not present
- Faculty – Cole Shewmake contacted Terri and said there was no news to report, so he requested to be absent.
- USSS President meeting with University President – did not take place yet this month. Will meet on 4/15. Terri will send out information regarding the meeting.
- Committees:
- Elections, Ann Courtney: reply to the email from Ann to say whether you want to continue serving next year or you want to retire from the Senate.
- Public Relations, Ann Courtney: no activity.
- Welcoming, Diane Letner: no one new
- Parking, Jordan Harding: Jordan was unable to attend today's meeting but will report next month
- Board of Governors, Michelle Hensley: Michelle was unable to attend the meeting.
- Strategic Planning, Terri Blessent: No new information.
- Information Technology, Michelle Hensley: Michelle noted that the Gus verify system, a two-factor login form, seems to be working, and has rolled out to a couple of offices. Contact Amanda Williams if you want to volunteer. Image Now upkeep is very expensive, and IT is investigating alternatives. If you are interested in the Check conference May 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, Michelle can get the website info. Three huge bulk orders for IT equipment have been completed using CARES funding.
- Campus Safety and Security: No representative has met with them.
- Docking Institute Survey: The USSS Subcommittee will meet Monday to review questions from the last survey to decide how much it should change. It will measure

employee satisfaction. The last one was distributed in 2019. This one will go out in Spring 2022. Some changes have been made on campus, like extra days at Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. The fee for the report has gone up from \$300 to \$1000 per university.

- University Revenue Planning, Terri Blessent: met last week and sent proposal to President's Council
- University Legislative Coordinating, Terri Blessent: - did not meet due to multiple instances of illness following vaccination clinic.
- USS Regent Committee met April 1. All other universities are combining USS and UPS. USS employees are not attending the combined meetings. WSU reported wrapping up their new presidential search and are interviewing their top 10 candidates. The council are requesting \$4,000 annual pay compensation for Senate presidents or else free parking, free season tickets for basketball, \$1500 stipend for continuing ed, and \$500 in meal vouchers. 67 employees took early retirement, which included one year's salary; possibly extended to folks who were within three years of retirement. Many could not be replaced. PSU is not offering this. KU had nothing to report; students are still not back on campus there. Ft. Hays is holding four in-person and two virtual commencement ceremonies and continuing with sports. SGA is doing outdoor events. Returning to normal fall schedule in September. Terri reported PSU's walk-through graduations, vaccine clinics, and returning to mostly pre-COVID practices in fall. At Emporia State, the USS and UPS are combining in December. They have offered \$24k to retire early to those 60 and older. They were looking at furloughing or laying off employees, but didn't have to because of those who retired. K State will include 2020 graduates in this year's commencement. USS and UPS joining forces. Many offices still working remotely.

#### Old Business:

Town Hall had just come out prior to last meeting, so nobody had watched yet.

Vaccinations: student vaccination clinics will be held next week, but J&J vaccine is on hold.

#### New Business:

Volunteers are needed for the Year-end celebration to make reservations at an off-campus restaurant, use Sodexo, or find another on-campus venue. We will invite our supervisors to join us, as well as Drs. Irwin, Kegler, and Shewmake. This will be June, so there is time. Jeannice volunteered and Carrol is assisting as well.

#### Good of the order:

Do we have continuing education dollars? Faculty has PD funds. We do not. Since there are no doctoral programs here, there is no tuition reimbursement for them.

Next meeting is May 12<sup>th</sup>. Commencement April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, with Nursing on May 7<sup>th</sup>.