Hello Shockers!
Welcome to all the new and re-elected senators. I’m very excited to be a part of such a diverse and knowledgeable senate this year and I look forward to working with all of you.

I would like to start with acknowledging and thanking all the past senators, officers, executive councils and committees, etc…who have done so much and given so much of their time and effort to support the University Support Staff so well. They have worked tirelessly over the years and have given us great representation and I truly admire and respect all of you. There is not enough room here to name all of you, but you know who you are.

So what’s in store for the senate for the new year? Here are the latest happenings:

- The presidents of the Unclassified Professionals and the University Support Staff Senates have started having monthly meetings with the director and assistant director of Human Resources to keep the lines of communication open, review policy changes and address any issues as needed.

- The president has formed the Presidents Council that will include members of the president’s executive team and the presidents of each senate. At first, this council was going to take the place of the one on one meetings between the president and each senate president, but that has been changed and the one on one meetings will continue as needed.

- The presidents of the Faculty Senate, UP Senate and the USS Senates will be meeting before the president’s council meetings to discuss any items we want to cover during the council meeting.

- The presidents of all three senates met with Zach Gearhart, Assistant Director of Government Relations, and he informed us that he is planning a University Day on the Hill event on January 19, 2017. A representative from all the Kansas Board of Regents Universities will be there. All three senates have asked for an opportunity to participate and highlight items for their individual groups. The details for this event are still pending at this time.

- Due to policy changes at the university the USS Meet Your Senator open houses will be changed to a spring celebration for all University Support Staff. More details to come for this event.

Please attend the University Support Staff Senate meetings for more information on these and other topics. The meeting schedule is on the website. I hope to see you there.

It’s a great day to be a Shocker.

Best regards,

Johny Buchanan-Spachek, President, University Support Staff Senate. Go Shocks!
News from Around Campus:

Campus Recreation:
Campus Recreation is excited to announce a new and innovative group-fitness class. Coming to WSU all the way from Australia, Campus Recreation will begin offering F45 as part of its Shocker Fit line-up. F45 is a high-intensity strength and conditioning class which will be offered 3-4 times/day. The F45 themed fitness studio will having certified instructors taking you through rigorous and rewarding functional fitness programming high on teamwork and results! Look for the F45 promotional information and class schedule in the Campus Recreation booklet which will hit the streets in early December.

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Human Resources:
Changes to Health Insurance Plans in 2017

With the new year brings the new Health Plan changes. Your health insurance elections for 2017 should be in place. Be sure to review your first few paychecks in January to be sure that your deductions match the insurance plans you chose. Some of the major changes for next year include 1) increases to medical, prescription drug, and dental premiums for all plans, especially those with spouses; 2) significant increases to the out-of-pocket amounts for all plans; 3) an additional coinsurance for Plan C members; and 4) changes to the HealthQuest program. You can find all of the new changes, and more by going to www.wichita.edu/hr/openenrollment.

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Professional Development:
There are many opportunities for WSU employees to attend training from a variety of resources. A survey was sent out to WSU employees in the spring of this year. Based on the information submitted, the Professional Development Committee is investigating ways to get the word out and to make training information easily accessible. The motto: Start Small and Grow! One improvement has already been made: Professional Development options were scattered about on the WSU website, making it difficult to find the opportunities. In July, several of these options were consolidated into one area on the myWSU Faculty/Staff page. Check out Employee Training, Resources and Professional Development area. This houses links to myTraining, EmpHelp and some of the other required training options for employees. More changes are coming...so be on the lookout for improvements!

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Upcoming WSU Events:
Check out the WSU Events calendar at: http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/calendar/ for information on upcoming events on our WSU Campus!
USS Senate Information
2017-2018
All meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from
3:30 pm-5 pm
200 Lindquist Hall, LAS Boardroom
Plan to attend one soon!

Minutes for the meetings as well other helpful information can be found on the USS website:
http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=uss

Check with your senator or the website for information coming soon on nominating exemplary
USS individuals for the President’s Distinguished Service Award.

Want to become a Senator? We need YOU!
If you have the time to commit to monthly meetings and some committee work, we would love to have you on board.
Contact Johny Buchanan-Spachek via campus email for more information.

ePermit Campus Parking Information

As everyone is aware, there were major changes to campus parking this fall. Just some helpful reminders:
1. If your license plate is on the rear of your car, you cannot back in or pull through a stall. The monitoring system
   must have the ability to read your license plate.
2. You may only have 1 parking registered vehicle on campus at a time. If a family member is using a vehicle that has
   an ePermit, you should remove that vehicle from the ePermit prior to their arrival on campus.
3. To see a list of parking lots on campus, check out: http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/
   parking/2016maps/fall_2016_parking_1600.jpg
4. A parking garage is in the works and is tentatively set to open in July 2017. This is a pay-to-park area with
   approximately 450 spots for faculty, students and visitors. It will be located just south and west of the RSC.
5. There are two separate committees for parking issues: one is for parking appeals only and the other is traffic-
   moving violations only.
Shocker Employee and Dependent Scholarship

University Support Staff (USS) Senate of Wichita State University (WSU) shall exist to promote the interests of all USS employees, to provide an open forum for the expression of these interests, and to facilitate the exchange of information between administrators / faculty / students and USS staff of the University.

The Shocker Employee and Dependent Scholarship was established with contributions to the Wichita State University Foundation and is sponsored by The USS Senate. Our ultimate goal in establishing this scholarship is to help in the advancement of WSU employees and their dependents. The USS Senate feels by establishing a scholarship for WSU employees/dependents they are encouraging employees/dependents to start or continue toward a bachelor’s degree.

Scholarship recipients must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current WSU employee, spouse or dependent of WSU employee
- Meet The USS Senate scholarship guidelines
- Be fully admitted to WSU in a degree bound program
- Be seeking their 1st Undergraduate Degree
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average
- Must meet WSU Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
- Complete written essay

Download application here

Applications must be received in the Office of Financial Aid by close of business on deadline dates:

Deadline Dates: Fall - June 1st Spring - November 1st
Tobacco Free Campus
It’s coming….July 1, 2017! If you are thinking about quitting smoking...there are options available to you. Beginning Oc
tober 20th, the WSU Counseling and Testing Center staff are facilitating the “Kicking the Butt: Tobacco Cessation” group.
This group will provide healthy ways to prepare for kicking the habit as well as provide support while you are quitting.
If you have the state insurance there are also ways to access help in your journey to quit. Check out the Healthquest web-
site: https://kansashealthquest.alerehealth.com/mve/ for more information on options available. Your physician also has
ways to help, including prescription medications that may be covered by your health insurance plan.

Shocker Scholarship!
Help us help you! This scholarship is available to USS staff as well as their dependents. We know in these times when it’s
hard to make ends meet, that another item deducted from your paycheck can certainly make a big difference. But if you
have benefitted from this scholarship, you also are aware that it can make a big difference in your life in a totally different
way!

Do you have Concerns, Suggestions or Praises?
Send us an “anonymous note” if you wish to make a suggestion to the University Support Staff Senate, Campus Box 114.
We will do our best to make it happen. We want to know your concerns. Remember though, sometimes the way to change
something is… to get involved and give us your great ideas.