



# University Support Staff Senate Archives

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Classified Senate

Academic year 2014-2015

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## **Classified Times**

*Keeping the WSU Classified Staff Informed!*

**Fall, 2014**

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**Additional information:** Archived in SOAR: Shocker Open Access  
Repository at: <https://soar.wichita.edu/handle/10057/15515>



# USS Times

*Keeping WSU Support Staff Informed!*

Fall 2014

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**WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Wichita State University  
University Support Staff  
Senate

President  
Ali Levine

<http://wichita.edu/senate>

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Newsletter Committee:

Sheryl McKelvey  
Robbie Norton

## President's Letter

Dear Colleagues:

I am always amazed at the good work being done here at Wichita State University. As I walk the campus I see the labor that goes into maintaining our beautiful grounds and its numerous buildings. I see and hear of those who assist our faculty and unclassified staff and wonder how we would ever move forward if not for you. I respect your work ethic and the tremendous morale you lend to one another and our students.



No, I can't see every good deed, or know of every good work you perform, but I see the culmination of everyone's effort, and it is right and it is good. I hope I motivate you to stay engaged in your work and time here on campus, but I also count on you to motivate me to be successful. Respect for one another and genuine caring have a tremendous impact on how we perceive our value. I do respect the work you do and I care deeply about your well-being.

There is transformation taking place on campus. When needed to progress change is a very good thing. I know that it can also be challenging, so I encourage you to be creative and stay engaged in your job. Identify your strengths and likes and look for ways to develop your personal growth. I encourage you to take advantage of the tuition assistance program for classes and seminars or workshops to expand your knowledge or improve your skills.

Together we have unlimited potential.

Respectfully,

John W. Bardo





Greetings, fellow University Support Staffers!

Wow, what a difference a year makes...

Although KU classified staff voted years ago to convert to University Support Staff, it wasn't until this academic year that the rest of the Kansas regent universities changed over as well. The benefit of this conversion was almost immediate, resulting in the first raise many of us have seen in over 5 years. We all have President Bardo to thank for the USS pay increases at WSU, and for doing what the legislature has been unable to do for so many years.

More changes are yet to come. Our subsequent raises will be merit based, which underscores the need for employee reviews to be as accurate as possible. Because of this, we are saying farewell to CEEDs, and Human Resources is preparing a new software for employee reviews that promises to be more appropriate for current USS needs.

There will also be the enormous task of rewriting position descriptions for each USS employee at WSU; updating each position and removing the various "classified" verbiage. We have been assured that **no** USS positions will be eliminated nor reduced in pay as a result of these revisions. In fact, when KU undertook this process, many USS employees actually saw an increase in pay as a result.

Needless to say, we are moving forward at full speed this year. Fortunately, USS employees have an amazing team of senators who have demonstrated that they are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get to work. All these changes can be disorienting, but we are all in this together, and there is a growing light at the end of the tunnel.

You are invited to attend our USS Senate meetings and join in the discussion; you may also contact any senator and ask him/her to bring forward an issue on your behalf. Information about meeting times and contacts may be found on our website, at [wichita.edu/uss](http://wichita.edu/uss). Remember that the USS Senate is not an authoritative group; we are composed entirely of USS employees and exist to represent YOU.

Have a wonderful fall and holiday season!

Sincerely,



Ali Levine  
President  
University Support Staff Senate

**Have a comment, concern or question?**

Contact your Senator! Click on the link below for the current roster of USS Senators:

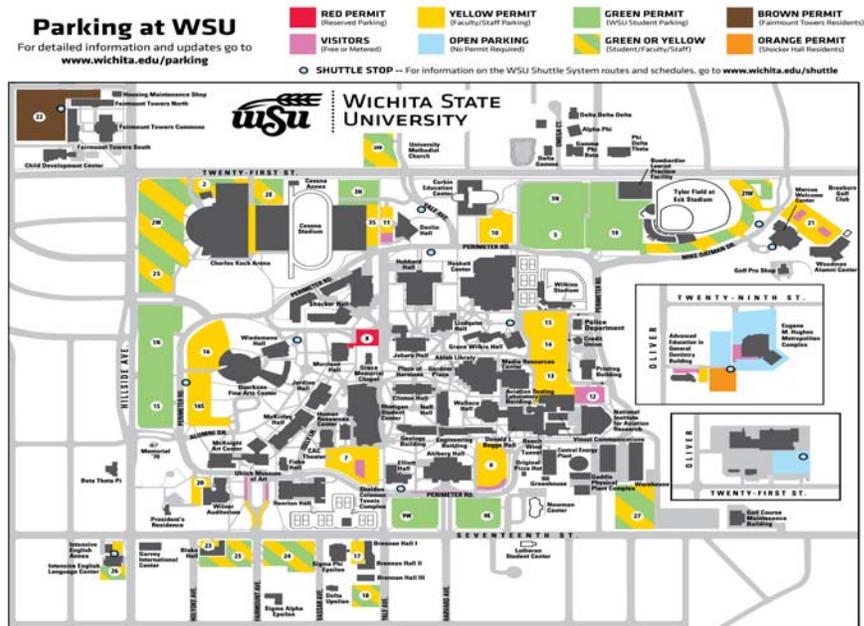
<http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=CLASSIFIED&p=/roster/>

## WSU Parking

As you all are aware, on-campus parking underwent a major transformation this semester. Beginning in August, you must have a parking permit in order to park in any of the campus parking lots. The lots also have been (in some areas) re-designated.

USS Senator Robbie Norton, who is on the Traffic Appeals committee, recently reported several students complained of being given incorrect information from staff regarding where they could park on campus, thus resulting in parking tickets.

Please make sure to give correct information to individuals for parking on campus. There are also shuttle service lots available off campus: the Metroplex-29<sup>th</sup> and Oliver and the shopping center lot at 21<sup>st</sup> and Oliver. For more information regarding parking, check out the parking webpage- [http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=parking&p=/index\\_pending/](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=parking&p=/index_pending/)



## Annual Open Enrollment for Health Benefits

Health Benefits Open Enrollment will end on 10/31/14! Please make sure you log in and designate your choices. Even if you don't plan to make any changes to your current plan, it's always best to check out what choices are available.

Hopefully you had a chance to attend one of the many health insurance open enrollment sessions presented by Human Resources or viewed one of the webinars presented by the state of Kansas.

Check out the Human Resources website:

[http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=humanresources&p=/News Events Archive/Custom Stories/openenrollment/](http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=humanresources&p=/News%20Events%20Archive/Custom%20Stories/openenrollment/) for more information.

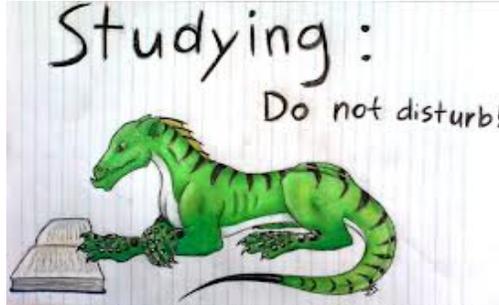


Reminder: **You only have until October 31, 2014 to make your selection. No late enrollment is permitted!**

## Tuition Assistance Programs

### Dependent and Spouse Program:

This program is available for dependents and/or the spouse of all full-time employees at the University. The program is administered by the Office of Human Resources. Click the link: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=humanresources2&p=/Benefits/Tuition/dependent/> for deadlines and more information.



### Employee Tuition Assistance Program

Application deadline for Spring 2015 is fast approaching! You must submit your application by December 12, 2014. Check out the website: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=humanresources2&p=/Benefits/Tuition/employee/> to find out how you can further your education!



## University Support Staff Senate Committees

The USS Senate has a wide ranging group of committees-from Alternative Service to Wellness.

This is the transitional year from Classified to USS so many questions on policy and procedures remain, the Alternative Service committee was formed to provide information and feedback. There has also been interest expressed in starting an Ombudsperson Program for the University Support Staff and we are exploring our options and will be reporting progress at future meetings.

### USS Senate Meeting Information:

The USS Senate meets from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month. Meeting location is the LAS Boardroom, 200 Lindquist Hall. The meetings are open to all. Feel free to come to any or all meetings.



Take time to walk around the campus and look at all the amazing colors! Our Physical Plant Landscaping Crew is fabulous!