

Good afternoon, all! As Dr Mason said I am Bob Duffy and for a little while longer I am Staff Senate President. I am also the drug and alcohol counselor at Health and Wellness Services. Since Nicole Frank will be stepping into the role of President and I will become Past-President- I'm about to become a has-been. This is the first time for our complete succession model, so it will be interesting to see how it unfolds. The rest of our executive team will be filled out on May 9<sup>th</sup> at our next senate meeting, so look for an announcement about this in the near future.

Well, we have had a year, haven't we?

In the past year our Events Committee chaired by Pamela Groff held a Halloween Costume Contest, a Holiday Door Decorating Contest, and a St Patrick's Day themed scavenger hunt which were all successes. We hope you enjoyed them- the feedback and participation indicated that you did.

We received \$1010 this year for Staff Scholarship funds on Giving Day. Thank you to those who generously donated- this aid helps ease the burden of our staff members who are continuing their lifelong education, and thus making FHSU a better place as a whole. You can still donate to this fund, if you would like to.

We continued to cooperate with the other Senates at the Regents'-wide UPS/USS Council Meetings to identify and address issues that affect all of our institutions, as well as sharing and sometimes borrowing ideas and approaches that are showing promise at each institution. Jennifer Whitmer stepped up, and along with Michael Walker from the Docking Institute of Public Affairs gave impactful presentations to the Kansas Board of Regents and the Council of Presidents for the system-wide results of the work environment survey. The Board's reaction was one that demonstrated that they had interest in working on the issues the study addresses, so it is important that we continue that commitment.

Our Goals Committee Chaired by Nicole Frank analyzed the data- both quantitative, and qualitative- from the FHSU-specific results of that same survey, and presented recommendations to ELT based on that analysis. One of those recommendations has already been funded and I am proud to announce we will begin recognizing the Staff Member of the Month with a \$100 award starting at the beginning of next fiscal year. We will also continue working with ELT to address the other issues raised by staff through participation in the survey.

As a result of our elections in our last meeting, we have a full Senate, and a few alternates to boot! This is a sign not only of a healthy Senate, but an engaged Staff, and a responsive administration. As President I could not be prouder of the work Senate has accomplished this year, and am happy with the direction Senate is taking for the future. Nicole Frank will be an amazing President, and Senate is engaged in important conversations moving FHSU forward.

I would like to give a special shout out and thank you to a few people. First is my supervisor Gina Smith and the entire Health and Wellness Staff for your support this year. It has encouraged and empowered me to represent Staff in a significant way. Second- our executive committee members- Misty Koonse, Jennifer Whitmer and Nicole Frank- without you I don't know where we would be as a Senate, or me as President- your energy, dedication, and focus are impressive. Third, to the entire Senate- those who are currently serving, those who have served in the past, and those who are starting this year- your work has and will continue to improve FHSU in many ways, and it is appreciated and impactful. Fifth to Dr Mason, and the leadership teams- your increased transparency and movement towards shared governance is very much appreciated as we move forward. Staff has much to offer, and it is great that you recognize that and are affording us an increasingly important "place at the table," And lastly but definitely not leastly to Lisa Lang as Past President for her dedication to Senate, as well as her guidance, wisdom, mentorship, and her willingness to put up with me...

To all staff - let's get through graduation together, and even though we'll continue working through the summer months, make sure you take time for yourself.

Thanks, and have a great summer!