

Welcome to the new academic year at Fort Hays State University! Although this year may be a bit different Staff Senate is still hard at work to make this university great. But before I discuss more about Staff Senate I would like to introduce myself.

My name is Jennifer Whitmer and I am the University Staff Senate President for the 2020-2021 academic year. I currently work as the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Social Work. I have been at Fort Hays State University for 10 years. I have been a member of Staff Senate for the past three years, first attending as a guest for two years and then assuming the Vice President office last year. I chose to join because, when the university switched classification roles, Unclassified Professional Staff, like myself, didn't have any shared governance representation across campus. I helped transition the organization from University Support Staff Senate, to what is now called University Staff Senate, it now includes ALL staff across campus, classified and unclassified. It's extremely important that all staff across our campus feel like they have a voice. I am pleased to have the opportunity to guide Staff Senate, in its mission to listen and understand staff perspectives from all parts of our campus, while making sure our efforts coincide with the university's goals and strategic plan.

Even though we all are being challenged to conduct business and assist students in a way we've never done before, I am excited and confident we'll achieve our goals. My main objective for this year as Staff Senate President is to increase awareness of the resources Senate provides to staff. We provide a forum for discussion, represent interests of staff, advise governance, and provide a voice to all FHSU staff, to KBOR and Kansas Legislature. I would encourage each of you to review our website ([www.fhsu.edu/staff-senate](http://www.fhsu.edu/staff-senate)) frequently, as we regularly post meeting agendas, minutes and other important information. You'll also see more of me in the future! I will be inviting staff to our open meetings via email and TigerDaily. I'll also be attending division and department meetings to discuss the needs and goals of our Staff members.

I'm happy and honored to serve as Staff Senate President. I am thankful to represent our talented and dedicated FHSU staff and wish you all a successful and safe year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Whitmer  
Staff Senate President  
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