

Good morning fellow Tigers,

It's a privilege to address you on behalf of the Fort Hays State University Staff Senate. My name is Nikki Houchen, I'm your current Staff Senate President. Today, we stand united as a vibrant community where every role, every voice, and every contribution strengthens our mission to deliver exceptional higher education and support for our students, faculty, and the institution at large.

The Staff Senate exists to ensure that staff members are heard. We champion the mission of higher education and provide a dedicated platform—a forum—for staff to express their ideas, concerns, and aspirations. We actively represent your interests before University governance, the Kansas Board of Regents, and even the Kansas Legislature.

Beyond representation, we serve as an advisory body—working together to shape policies, practices, and decisions that reflect the real needs of our community. And, perhaps most powerfully, we build bridges—working collectively with both the Student Government Association and the Faculty Senate to align our efforts for the greater good of FHSU.

Leading the Staff Senate for the 2025–2026 term are passionate and committed leaders that represent the 20 staff senate members and ultimately the 500 staff members of this university. This team is ready and eager to listen, act, and advocate for your needs.

So, what can you do?

- First of all, Share your ideas, feedback, and concerns—your voice matters, and needs to be heard
- Second, Engage with us at meetings, in surveys, and at events so we can strengthen the bridge between staff and leadership.
- Finally, Join in our collaborative efforts by becoming a staff senator, to shape a better, all-encompassing, and effective Fort Hays State University. We have open senator seats right now! And I'd love to talk to you about being on our team.

Together, we can ensure that the Staff Senate remains a powerful advocate and partner—a true Cornerstone in our university's journey forward.

Thank you for your dedication, your vision, and your commitment. Let's move forward—together. Go Tigers!