

Good afternoon everyone! As Dr. Mason said, my name is Jennifer Whitmer and I am the Staff Senate President and work as an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Social Work. I have been the Staff Senate President for 2 years and next week we are electing new Executive Officers, so look for more information on who is the upcoming President, President-Elect and Secretary.

Staff Senate has had another busy and productive year. We have increased communication, senate awareness and overall meeting participation, both zoom and face to face. We held a Halloween Costume Contest, created a Holiday video, awarded \$922 in scholarships to staff who are furthering their education. We were also a focused group during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Foundation Giving Day and we were amazed that we raised \$1205!

We had two major projects that Staff Senate worked on this year. First we have been a combined senate for a few years now and realized some of the issues and loopholes with our bylaws. Our committee worked on the bylaw proposed changes for over a year that included, succession plan, how we hold elections, as well as categorizing staff from job families into three management silos. The bylaws passed in March.

Our second major project has been at the KBOR level and that is working on the staff climate survey that staff filled out a few weeks ago. It has been an 18 month project that we have worked with the Docking Institute and the 5 other regents schools. We will be gathering data and comments early in the fall semester and will create a focus group to look into more of the data to see what tangible items can be addressed. Speaking of KBOR, FHSU was the host school for KBOR this year, so we were extra busy with hosting all of the UPS/USS Council Meetings and reporting to the Council of Presidents. We continue to work with our senates at the other KBOR schools to collaborate and advocate for staff, at a state level as well as an individual school level.

Last month we held Senator Elections and I'm excited to say that we have another year of a full Senate with a few alternates too. We have lot of new faces and I am personally thrilled to see Senate continue to flourish and thrive in these next years. Even though this is the last month for me being president, I will be past president this next year and help support the new president and still attend meetings to help with the succession plan.

It continues to be extremely important that all staff across our campus feel like they have a voice, and Staff Senate takes that seriously. We appreciate Dr. Mason and all of the members of the Senior and Executive Leadership Team and shared governance for allowing Staff Senate to participate and have a seat at the table and listen to all of the concerns of our staff. 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, staff scholarship process, and other important information.

Thank you to my executive officers, Staci Kinderknecht and Liz Atwater, and past president Lisa Lang for your help, support and guidance these last few years. Also thank you to my department chair, Tim Davis, and the entire social work faculty for your friendship, support and picking up some of the slack while I've been Staff Senate President. My last thank you is to the future staff senate and the future staff senate leadership for your sacrifice, dedication and extra work to continue to give the staff a voice.

I realize that this is the end of another academic year, but as staff we are always on campus year around! So, to those staff members here today, or watching this live, or reading my report on the convocation website, be sure to take some time for yourselves this summer to relax, decompress and rejuvenate and don't forget to use those vacation days, as you earned and deserve them!