

Thank you, Dr Mason, for again inviting University Staff Senate to be part of convocation.

We have completed our first year as a University Staff Senate and I am pleased to report that we had all senate seats full. The combined University Support Staff and Unclassified Professional Staff senate was years in making. I would like to thank any previous senator for their service. Our ability to build on the strong background that had been in place, I believe gives us a solid foundation on which to build for the future.

One accomplishment this year was to bring forward a request to make a change to the inclement weather policy. Thank you to Dr Mason and the Executive Leadership Team for listening to our concerns and acting on the policy.

Staff Senate has been working more closely with the senates from the other Kansas Board of Regent Schools to find ways to advocate for staff members within the system. These interactions continue to provide ideas from similar groups for methods to improve staff morale among other things.

The regular President's Round Table which are meetings with Dr Mason, Faculty Senate president, Student Government Association president and Staff Senate president continue to be helpful and informative. The information exchange keeps us aware of what projects each entity is working on and how we may work together. The open communication gives a voice to the concerns and accomplishments of each group. It has provided me with a better understanding of the university.

This is my last convocation and I would like to thank everyone across campus who has answered my questions, pointed me in the right direction or sometimes just listened and provided a sounding board. The relationships that I have formed have helped me share staff questions in an open and honest dialogue.

A special thanks to my coworkers in the alumni office. Your advice, support and friendship mean the world to me. Thank You!

As we look to next year, University Staff Senate will be led by Jennifer Whitmer. I have already seen her commitment to leading staff senate and know that we will continue to thrive.

I would like to end with Carol Burnett's closing

*I'm so glad we had this time together*

*Just to have a laugh or sing a song*

*Seems we just get started*

*and before you know it*

*Comes the time we have to say*

*So long*

Goodnight!

(Ear pull)

Respectfully submitted and thank you.

Lisa Lang