



## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE NEWSLETTER FY2019 VOL. I

We are pleased to present the latest installment of the University Governance newsletter. Much discussion with the administration has focused on the pending budget cuts to the university budget. For any comments and questions please go to [govern@ku.edu](mailto:govern@ku.edu).

University Senate will be holding an open forum on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 - 5:00pm in the Integrated Science Building, Room 1154, to garner feedback about the budget cuts and other university community concerns. All faculty, staff and students are invited to attend.

Respectfully,  
Ruben Flores, University Senate President  
Kirk McClure, Faculty Senate President

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### **INTERIM PROVOST LEJUEZ, CHANCELLOR GIROD, AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR LONG ADDRESS UNIVERSITY SENATE**

Interim Provost Carl Lejuez addressed the University Senate on September 6, the first meeting of the 2018/2019 year. He spoke on the current budget crisis and stated his focus is on foundational priorities for the next 5 years –yearly salary increases for staff and faculty, deferred maintenance on university buildings, minimizing tuition increases, and building the savings reserve fund back up to normal levels. He said the University needs to change its budget model beginning as early as the next fiscal year to add more clarity and accountability. He will continue to take suggestions and proposals about how to mitigate cuts, and will look at alternative options. The Presidents of the Staff and Student Senates read statements outlining their concerns about the budget cuts, then Lejuez took questions from members.

At the second meeting, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Chancellor Girod addressed the University Senate. He described recent leadership changes, discussed enrollment for the year, and commented on new initiatives and the budget transformation that is underway. He took questions after and hosted a reception afterwards at The Outlook.

Athletic Director Jeff Long spoke to the University Senate on November 1<sup>st</sup>. He described his background as a first generation college student and Division III athlete and his philosophy that sport is part of the education process. He shared his priorities for Kansas Athletics Inc., including the health, safety and well-being of athletes, competing with honest and integrity, and supporting them in pursuing their degrees. Long expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the Senate and took questions from Senate members.

For more meeting details, the minutes once approved will be posted on our website:

<http://governance.ku.edu/fy2019-meetingsminutes>

For meeting dates for University Senate, SenEx, University Faculty Senate, FacEx, please see

<http://governance.ku.edu/fy2019-meetingsminutes>

## **2018-2019 UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE CHARGES**

The charges for all University and Faculty Senate Committees have been approved, and committees are starting to meet. For a list of the Governance Committees and charges please see:

<https://governance.ku.edu/all-committees>



## **UNIVERSITY SENATE CODE CHANGES APPROVED AND PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS EXPANDED**

In May 2018 Chancellor Girod approved amendments to USRR 1.3.8, 1.4.4 and 1.4.7. Previously students with verifiable medical crises of a relative or friend could be excused from scheduled or final examinations. The changes to USRR 1.3.8 and 1.4.4 expand protections should a student have a verifiable medical crisis of their own. USRR 1.4.7 is a new addition to the code allowing students with an unforeseen life event (e.g. divorce, birth or adoption of a child, death, loss of employment, and victimization) or witnessing an unforeseen life event for a friend or relative to be excused from scheduled exams and tests. In all circumstances it is the responsibility of the student to initiate discussion with the instructor, ideally prior to the exam.

## **CALLING ALL FACULTY MEMBERS!**

Throughout the year, the Faculty Senate President is asked to provide names of faculty members to serve on various committees. There are also occasionally faculty vacancies on the University and Faculty Senate Committees. Would you volunteer to be put on a list of faculty members that the President could turn to when volunteers are needed? Send an e-mail to [govern@ku.edu](mailto:govern@ku.edu), if you would be willing to be considered for service on a university committee. All volunteers will be contacted

before being assigned a committee and can accept or turn down the invitation to serve on a case-by-case basis.

## **GOVERNANCE MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Faculty Senate and FacEx member [Nancy Jo Kepple](#) presented findings on KC opioid abuse and recovery resources on Sept. 5 at KU Edwards Campus.

[Michael Engel](#), Faculty Senate member, was appointed one of three 2018 University Distinguished Professorships.

In the LJ World's ongoing coverage of the budget cuts, editors have included responses and proposals from [Kirk McClure](#), Faculty Senate President.

## **UPDATES FROM THE FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENT SENATES:**

### **FACULTY SENATE**

The Faculty Senate leadership has been active in opposing the manner in which the proposed 6% cut in the base budget is being implemented. Attrition of faculty will be a major vehicle for absorbing the cuts in base budget. KU could lose 80 to 100 faculty members. The danger in this approach is that KU will lose many older retiring professors, many of who will be our most productive scholars, and KU will lose young stars to other universities happy to prey on our financial hardship. Governance leadership is also monitoring the development of the new budget model for academic units that is expected to be in place by late spring 2019. The model will be a hybrid. A portion of revenues will be exempt from the budget process, such as differential tuition. A portion of revenues will be allocated by a formula based on Student Credit Hours with adjustments for "subsidies" to units with special needs. A portion of revenues will be allocated by a committee, probably to be composed of faculty members, to reward strategic initiatives. The leadership will continue to advocate for faculty interests on these issues.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee was also notified of a request by the Interim Provost and a Representative from Johnson County Community College, proposing to KBOR that transfer students from a community college to a four-year institution could graduate with a minimum of 45 credit hours completed at the four-year institution. A conference call meeting of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, from the Regent Schools, found no support for the proposal.

KU has created a faculty position for Teaching Professors. Some concerns were raised by traditional tenure-track faculty with research responsibilities. All faculty received an email on October 31, from the Provost and the Vice provost for Faculty Development regarding with information regarding the changes. Please forward your comments and questions to [govern@ku.edu](mailto:govern@ku.edu).

The Faculty Senate has also been working with the administration on review of the following amendments approved in spring 2018:

- Proposed Gift Policy

- Faculty Control over curricular matters including the common core.

- FSRR VII, regarding burden of proof and procedural violations.

## **STUDENT SENTATE**

The Campus Cupboard opened on September 24th. It is located in the Traditions area of the Kansas Union. The Student Senate is working with Student Affairs and Rise KU to implement a program that would provide free menstrual products on campus. Student Senate is looking into bringing back the New York Times Campus Readership Program at a lower cost to students than in previous years. The partnership would also include professional development opportunities for students interested in journalism. Zach Thomason was unanimously confirmed as Student Senate Chief of Staff on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **STAFF SENATE**

The Staff Senate is now accepting applications for the Staff Professional Development Fund. Starting this year, the applications will be open on a rolling basis, with applications being reviewed around the 20th of each month. The funding will be divided throughout the year, with a few awards made each month. More information can be found at: <http://staffsenate.ku.edu/professional-development>

Employee engagement is a priority for the Staff Senate this year and they are exploring options for improving it in areas such as training and mentoring programs, and tuition benefits for dependents and spouses.

The Staff Senate has worked to implement a KU webpage for acronyms. It's an acronym world and sometimes it can be confusing. Visit the website: <https://publicaffairs.ku.edu/ku-acronyms> to look up acronyms and their meanings, and to suggest additions to the list.

For meeting dates for Staff Senate, please see: <https://staffsenate.ku.edu/fy2019-staff-senate-full-meetings>

If you have concerns, corrections, or suggestions, please contact us at [govern@ku.edu](mailto:govern@ku.edu). If you would like to subscribe to the Governance Newsletter, please contact [govern@ku.edu](mailto:govern@ku.edu).