

Hello FHSU Staff, Faculty and Administration.

It's amazing to see you all here today. Well, Like Yogi said- "It's like Déjà Vu all over again..." I'm back- and now ready to be President of Staff Senate...Hopefully...

I think most of you know me, but for those of you who don't, I'm Bob Duffy and I have the honor to represent over 500 FHSU staff as the President of your Senate. This is my 6th year on senate, and I am about to begin my 28th year on staff at FHSU as part of the Health and Wellness Services team. If you are a Senator or part of our Executive team, please stand and be recognized. (PAUSE)

In case you're not familiar with Staff Senate and what we do and why we are here I'll quote from our by-laws:

The Senate exists as an open forum for free expression of ideas, issues, and interests that are of concern to the FHSU Staff and to empower and support the Staff in creating a culture that fulfills the vision and mission of the FHSU community.

In short, we represent the interests of Staff through the process of Shared Governance. We host open monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30 to 2:30 and all are welcome to attend either in-person or via zoom. Detailed meeting announcements are published in the Tiger Daily, and meeting minutes are posted on our website.

This year my predecessor -and previous successor- Nicole Frank completed her second term on the Executive Team as President, and led us forward through some significant challenges, while also increasing our impact in shared governance, and promoting recognition for the work that staff perform. Nicole will now fulfill the role of Past President, Diana Staab continues as Secretary, and Richard Weber is President-Elect. They have all been more than helpful already as we begin the academic year, and I owe them thanks already.

This year Senate will be working with the other KBOR schools and the Docking Institute of Public Affairs to plan for next year's staff survey, we will be moving forward with shared governance, and collaborating on compensation and work environment issues.

Currently Senate has one open seat that represents the functional area of Student Affairs/ President's Office. If you work in either of these areas and are interested in serving on Senate you can contact me or any of our senators- a full list of senators is available on our Staff Senate webpage, and we do like to have not only a full senate, but a slate of alternates who can fill in as needed.

To all of the staff here today, thank you for your work. I realize many are not able to attend today because they are beautifying our grounds, moving students in, updating technology in our classrooms, dispersing financial aid, registering and advising students, maintaining buildings and the power to campus, and performing myriad other tasks to ensure a smooth launch to the academic year. If you see them today or any other day, please take time to acknowledge and thank them.

Dr. Mason and the Executive Leadership team, Faculty Senate, SGA, and AAUP, thank you for your support of Senate. I look forward to working collaboratively as we navigate this year together.

Staff Senators and executive officers, thank you for your dedication and spirit. Let's do great things together. To all of you, let's have an amazing year and help FHSU reach our potential.

