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UA3/8/4 Joy Gramling Campaign Letter

Joy Gramling

WKU President’s Office - Meredith

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Dear Fellow Staff Member,

I wish I could come and talk to each of you but it’s hard to visit 840 people since like most of you I work an 8:00 to 4:00 schedule. I’m writing this letter for two important reasons:

First, I want to ask you to attend the forum scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th at 1:00 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium. The forum is a golden opportunity for the staff to meet and discuss important issues. We have a hall, a date, and a time scheduled for us to get together and talk about our concerns. Let’s take advantage of it to figure out what message we really want to send the Board of Regents.

This graph shows what the staff looks like on paper. We are a very large and diverse group. The Staff Regent will need all the help available to represent the whole staff fairly. Won’t you please be a part of this?

Here are some of the questions I would like to ask you at the forum:

* What is the best way for the staff to communicate with the Staff Regent? Through meetings at large? By creating a separate advisory council? Through letters and phone calls?
* What are the major issues that concern all staff?
* What issues are important to smaller groups of staff members?
* How can we best deal with these issues?

The second reason for this letter is that I want to share some of my ideas with you, especially if you can’t attend the forum. Since the Board of Regents spends a lot of its time on the budget, I think the main job of the Staff Regent is to push for competitive salaries for the staff (especially for those on the lower end of the pay scale) and to maintain and improve our benefits package. I would take advantage of every opportunity to improve the quality of our work life. I would also do my best to discourage the trend toward privatization of services at Western and the large scale use of temporary employees. These practices threaten our job security and will only hurt the University in the long run.

I would also like to see the staff have its own organization because our strength lies in joining together as a group. As Staff Regent, I welcome the opportunity to work with any group you establish to provide you a greater voice within the University, such as a Staff Congress or Staff Senate.

I have worked as a painter for Facilities Management for 16 years and I sure know what it is to be a working person at Western. In the past, I have worked hard for better medical insurance, training for supervisors, and retaining our benefits - not just for Facilities Management but for all employees. I have the best interests of the entire staff at heart.

Don’t forget to vote on June 16th. I hope to see you at the forum on the 14th.

Sincerely,

Joy Gramling
Candidate for Staff Regent