May 2017 Kent State University Report to KSURA & OCHER
(Summary by Jerry Feezel, Pres. KSURA)

At Faculty Senate, President Warren thanked the good work of the faculty and staff this past AY and for their good wishes on her health and reports she is cancer free. Reviewing the year’s progress, she highlighted the Adjustments done in the RCM model to increase academic units funding. The Foundations of Excellence program is nearing completion and establishing the Brain Health Center is underway with Director search. We just had our first One University Commencement in Dix Stadium with Oscar winner Octavia Spencer speaking. Though we have had commencements in the stadium before, this was the first including all eight campuses. 5600 graduated and Owen Lovejoy was given the President’s Medal. In this 2ND year of the President’s Faculty Excellence Award, 13 were recognized.

Provost Diacon’s Office reported continued progress on building the percentage of TT faculty and increasing the faculty diversity. A new “One Stop” center in the Library is opening June 5 consolidating student services in one location rather than a student having to go to various offices. There was discussion of establishing a 2-day Fall Break in 8TH week of semester; however, because Fall Semester is shorter this was not well received & was withdrawn.

In Athletics, The Golden Flashes Men’s Basketball upset Akron for the MAC Championship and the Women made their first MAC Tournament in years. The #12 Men’s & #15 Women’s Golf won MAC championships (Women in NCAA Champ Tournament). Baseball in 1ST in the MAC and Softball is in the MAC Tournament also. Wrestling, Track, & Gymnastics had another stellar year, sending players to the NCAA tournaments. We just hired a coach to begin the Women’s Lacrosse team and are expanding funding priorities for the basketball programs.

My term as KSURA President draws to a close with the annual picnic June 14. This year our Potluck Picnic is cosponsored by the Development Office to raise money for our scholarship account. Our May meeting each year is focused on spotlighting distinguished alums. Reviewing our 2ND year as all KSU retirees, we continue to encourage Staff retirees to become involved. Wilma Crawford steps in as President with our campaign to grow the Scholarship fund and make our first student award this fall. We are expanding our other communication efforts with proposed notices of meetings in local publications (newspaper & County events email listings). We remain financially sound without formal dues thanks to donations at meetings and small surcharges on our major events; we also continue to have the mailing support of the Provost’s Office. From our representation in the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) alerts on retirement issues are posted periodically on our Website. Efforts continue to expand involvements with Institutional Advancement and Development Campaigns.