Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Chair Ms. Tami Schademann
X Member Ms. Dana Rank Bye
E Member Ms. Pat Brune
X Member Mr. George Kemper
E Member Anthony Villegas
X Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present) E (Excused)
U (Unexcused)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Schademann called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Commissioners Rank Bye and Kemper were present. Administrator Benien was present. Commissioner Villegas was absent but excused. Prior to the meeting Commissioner Brune recused herself for the February and March, 2015 UG Ethics Commission meetings.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

Approved Minutes of the December, 2014 meeting were reviewed and corrected and approved as corrected. Proposed Minutes of the January, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Commissioner Rank and seconded by Commissioner Kemper. The motion passed unanimously.
b). Monthly Administrator’s Report:

Administrator Benien provided the written December, 2014 monthly report which outlined the training provided in December, 2014 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received. Administrator Benien provided the January, 2015 report which outlined the training provided in January, 2015 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.

Continuing Ethics training for the three UG Commissioners needing to complete such training will be scheduled in the next few months and for newly elected UG Commissioners after the April, 2015 general election. The Ethics Administrator has been contacted with respect to scheduling ethics training for the sheriff and fire departments. Basic Ethics training sessions have been scheduled for March 19, 2015 and June 24, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Human Resources training center. Continuing Ethics training sessions have been scheduled for March 9, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. and April 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. with locations to be announced. A training video was filmed on February 2, 2015 for provision to the police and fire departments for the Continuing Ethics training. The fire department provided its videotape equipment for use in the preparation of the video. Police and fire are both in their three year training cycles.

Four new hotline complaints were received. Fourteen complaints are pending awaiting investigation, under investigation or determination. Five complaints were closed with no violation found or no jurisdiction. Eleven advisory opinion requests are pending. One email advisory opinion request was closed with verbal opinion provided and no written opinion needed. One new email advisory opinion was requested and one new written request was received. One request for ethics presentation or training for a handicapped employee is pending.

The Administrator’s oral report was accepted as presented for January, 2015.

New Business:

On January 16, 2015 an ethics presentation was made to various elected officials at a seminar provided by the Kansas League of Municipalities in Bonner Springs, Kansas. All UG Ethics Commissioners received an invitation to attend the Black History banquet at the Reardon Center on February 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. A Political Memorandum for distribution in the upcoming primary UG election was updated and revised and distributed to all UG employees, elected officials, appointed officials and the UG Election Commissioner for distribution to candidates. A copy of the memorandum will be provided to all UG Ethics Commissioners. Prior to the February 5, 2015 UG Ethics Commission meeting, Commissioner Brune gave notice that she was voluntarily recusing herself from the February 5, March 5 and April 3, 2015 UG Ethics Commission meetings so as to avoid the appearance of impropriety due to a family relationship with a candidate for the UG Commission.
Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Kemper

Seconded by Commissioner Rank-Bye

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Next Meeting is March 5, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien_____

Ruth M. Benien
UG Ethics Administrator