

# Minutes of the K-State Classified Senate

December 5, 2012

**I. President Dale Billam called the meeting to order.**

**II. Roll Call**

- A.** Present: Mike Ashcraft, Dale Billam, Becki Bohnenblust (for Lindsay Thompson), Paula Connors, Ramon Dominguez, Michele Edwards, Susan Erichsen, Pat Fine, Doris Galvan, Kerry Jennings, Gary Leitnaker, Kari Lindeen, Carol Marden, Brad Millington, Christina Nash, Lesa Reves, Rob Reves, Michael Seymour, Maria Sweet, Janice Taggart, Pam Warren, John Wolf, Terri Wyrick
- B.** Absent, Excused: Janet Finney, Annette Hernandez, Will Hirsch, Sharon Maike
- C.** Guests: Wendy Matthews, Becky Wolfe

**III. Dr. Sue Peterson, Director of Governmental Relations**

Classified Senate congratulated Dr. Sue Peterson on her CASE award. Dr. Peterson gave us an overview of the election results for the Kansas legislature from the November elections. Of the 40 senators, 12 will be new to the Senate. Of the 125 representatives, 50 will be new. For both houses, 165 total, 71 will have 4 years or less of experience in the legislature. Leadership elections were held this week in Topeka. In the House, Ray Merrick will be the new speaker of the House, Jene Vickrey will be the majority leader, Peggy Mast will be the speaker pro tem, and Paul Davis will continue as minority leader. In the Senate, Susan Wagle will be the new president of the Senate, Jeff King will be the vice-president, Terry Bruce will be the majority leader, and Anthony Hensley will continue as minority leader. Local elections for Manhattan and the surrounding areas saw Sydney Carlin, Tom Phillips, Vern Swanson, Richard Carlson, and Ron Highland win elections for the House, and Tom Hawk and Laura Kelly win elections for the Senate. Dr. Peterson then discussed with Classified Senate the issues the 2013 legislature will be facing. Dealing with the tax package passed by the 2012 legislature and the projected shortfall (\$500-\$800 million), and whether to continue the additional state sales tax that is set to expire will be two of the biggest issues the legislature will face.

**IV. Associate VP/Human Resources & Parking Services Report**

- A.** In July Gary Leitnaker had asked DPS in Topeka about the reconfigured Employee Suggestion Program, and was told it was not ready yet. DPS now says it is active, and Jennifer Gehrt and Char Shropshire will be working on campus guidelines that they hope to have completed in early January.
- B.** Employees who chose plan C as their insurance for next year should be receiving information via e-mail about the program in the next few days, and subsequently a debit card will be issued. Make sure the debit card matches the bank where your account was created.

**V. Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed. Kerry Jennings moved to accept the minutes. Pam Warren seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**VI. Budget/Treasurer's Report**

There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of Annette Hernandez.

**VII. Executive Council Report**

President Dale Billam passed around a sheet asking for volunteers to help at the President's holiday receptions on December 10 and 13.

**VIII. Classified Senate President's Report**

Nothing to report

**IX. Senate Standing Committees**

Legislative Affairs Committee was the only committee that met and had a report.

**A.** Legislative Affairs Committee: Lesa Reves reported that volunteers had been found to go to Topeka on January 16 to present name plates to legislators, and to attend Cats in the Capitol on February 13. Members of the committee have volunteered to attend Day on the Hill on January 30, and asked other members of the Senate who might be interested in attending to let her know.

**X. Campus Committee Reports**

**A.** Alternative Service Committee: Carol Marden reported that this committee has oriented all of the new members. They have received 3 of 4 white papers from Human Resources. The white paper regarding compensation and pay is the one they have yet to receive. The committee will be going to KU on Friday to discuss how the support staff system has worked for the KU employees. The committee is working on a timeline. Classified employees must be given notice 90 days before a vote can be taken, and informational meetings would need to be held during those 90 days. By February 1 the committee should know if a vote in May would be feasible. If not, it would have to wait until after the summer because of the 9 month employees.

**B.** Faculty Senate Fringe Benefits Committee: Pam Warren reported that the committee has sent a proposal to Faculty Senate regarding tuition assistance to increase tuition assistance from 3 to 6 hours for full-time employees, offer 3 hours for half-time employees, and pro-rate assistance for employees between .5 FTE and 1.0 FTE.

**C.** Council on Parking Operations: Terri Wyrick reported the committee did not have a quorum present for their last meeting, so no business could be conducted.

**D.** Peer Review Committee: Carol Marden reported there was one hearing conducted during the previous month.

**E.** Service & Maintenance Committee: Mike Seymour reported the committee watched a video from Homeland Security about how to deal with an active shooter, and have been working on fixing sidewalks across campus.

- F. Master Plan Committee: Dale Billam reported that Ayers Saint Gross presented their plan at several forums in November, and the plan can be found on the committee's website: <http://www.k-state.edu/masterplan/>
- G. Search Committees: Pam Warren reported that the deadline for applications for the head of the Dept. of Accounting has been extended.

**XI. Old Business**

- A. Suggestions have been received for a list to present to President Schulz with ideas that could be implemented to improve our working conditions and morale. Vice President Janice Taggart will compile the list and send it out to Senate members to review before a final list is approved and voted on at next month's meeting.

**XII. New Business**

- A. President Dale Billam received an inquiry from Mirta Chavez asking if Classified Senate would be interested in sponsoring a wreath for the annual MLK wreath laying ceremony on February 1. The cost of the wreath is \$125. Janice Taggart moved and Terri Wyrick seconded a motion to approve sponsoring a wreath for the ceremony. Motion passed.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Terri Wyrick moved to adjourn the meeting. Christina Nash seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Fine

Classified Senate Secretary