

Minutes of the K-State Classified Senate

November 7, 2012

I. President Dale Billam called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

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

III. President Kirk Schulz

President Schulz addressed Senate on several items and answered questions. Enrollment at K State is up this year, and is the highest it has ever been. The increase in student enrollment this fall is resulting in a 1 percent base increase to mid-year salaries for all regular and term-appointed faculty and unclassified professionals. The increase will take effect in January. He thanked classified employees for being so welcoming to prospective and new students, and to all visitors to the campus. With the results from the election this week, the Kansas legislature will have many new members and members with only two years of experience that need to hear from us about the importance of higher education funding and the value of state workers. All state departments except those related to higher education have been asked to come up with 90% budgets, reducing 10%, but with the economy and legislative actions higher education may be asked to reduce by 10% as well. With the tax cuts implemented by the last legislature it would be helpful if the legislature voted during the next session to keep the state sales tax rate at the current level, which would generate around \$350-\$400 million dollars of state revenue. President Schulz has explored many avenues for increasing classified employee pay, but state laws and regulations do not give him any flexibility regarding our compensation, which is one reason why the Alternative Service Committee has decided to reactivate itself. He welcomes any suggestions for non-salary related ideas that could be implemented to improve our working conditions and morale. We thanked President Schulz for his exceptional support of classified employees.

IV. Associate VP/Human Resources & Parking Services Report

- A.** Around 1,000 employees here at K State chose plan C during the open enrollment period last month according to Gary Leitnaker.
- B.** Kerry Jennings asked Gary Leitnaker about positions that were refilled from the retirement incentive program offered last year. Gary said the decision about refilling

positions was left up to departments, and many of the positions were refilled. Any positions left open are not lost. They are added to the next year's budget.

- C. Mike Ashcraft had a question for Gary about Veterans Day pay/compensation. Gary said the decision about whether classified employees will receive holiday pay or compensatory time is made by the individual departments based on their needs and budgets. He suggested talking to your supervisor if there are concerns.

V. Minutes

The minutes were reviewed. John Wolf moved to accept the minutes. Rob Reves seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VI. Budget/Treasurer's Report

Annette Hernandez presented the budget report for the period October 1-31, 2012. Foundation Account C-21151-CS has a balance of \$2,518.66; Foundation Account C-21155-CS has a balance of \$180.41; Foundation Account C-23750-CS Awards Ceremony has a balance of \$43.59; and State Account NMAF205629 has a balance of \$1,892.63. Total funds available are \$4,635.29. Michele Edwards moved to accept the treasurer's report. Lesa Reves seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. Executive Council Report

Nothing to report

VIII. Classified Senate President's Report

- A. Dale Billam attended a President's Cabinet meeting where various reports were presented.
- B. Dale thanked everyone for voting in the general election November 6.

IX. Senate Standing Committees

Classified Employee Opportunity Fund and Legislative Affairs reports were given and Public Relations, Recognition Ceremony, and Campus Affairs Committee meetings were held.

- A. Classified Employee Opportunity Fund: Annette Hernandez reported that 3 awards were paid for during the past month.
- B. Campus Affairs Committee: Carol Marden thanked everyone for their work during the Benefits Expo. Work on the redesigned Classified Senate website is 30-40% done and then will be available for review.
- C. Public Relations Committee: Lindsay Thompson reported that the committee would have a proposal when Senate discussed new business.
- D. Recognition Ceremony Committee: A letter will be sent out and placed in K State Today by Annette Hernandez promoting awareness of the ceremony to be held in April.
- E. Legislative Affairs Committee: Lesa Reves thanked everyone for voting on November 6. Several members of Senate commented on how easy and efficient it was to do advance voting in the Union. The committee will be sending out a short survey to all

classified employees on campus with two questions. Responses to the survey are due by November 16. January 30, 2013 has been set as Day on the Hill, when classified Board of Regents employees will meet with legislators.

X. Campus Committee Reports

- A. Alternative Service Committee: Carol Marden reported that this committee will be meeting twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays. New members on the committee are: Austin Daugherty, Carrie Fink, Kerry Jennings, Douglas Kramer, Hanna Manning, Parrish Quick, and Amy Schmidt. The next meeting will focus on orientation for the new members. There is no definitive timeline in place for the work of the committee, since they are still in the early stages of reorganizing.
- B. Faculty Senate Fringe Benefits Committee: Pam Warren reported that the committee has been gathering information from other universities regarding their policies on tuition assistance to be used when the committee drafts their proposal. Priscilla Roddy is the new co-chair of the committee.
- C. Recycling Committee: Mike Ashcraft reported the committee has been focusing on Game Day activities.
- D. Council on Parking Operations: The committee has been reviewing the plans from Ayers Saint Gross and the K State 2025 plan to see the impacts these will have on campus traffic.
- E. Master Plan Committee: Dale Billam reported that Ayers Saint Gross is presenting their plan at various forums this week on campus. The plan features a much more pedestrian campus, and proposed sites for several new buildings. More information can be found on the committee's website: <http://www.k-state.edu/masterplan/>
- F. President's Commission on Multicultural Affairs: Janet Finney reported that the commission has been examining their goals in relation to the HLC report and the strategic plan.
- G. Search Committees: Pam Warren reported that applications for the head of the Dept. of Accounting are being received and the committee will begin screening around December 1.

XI. Old Business

None to report

XII. New Business

- A. Lindsay Thompson, on behalf of the Public Relations Committee, proposed holding a Classified Senate open house at our February meeting. Kerry Jennings moved and Mike Ashcraft seconded a motion to have the open house on February 6, 2013, in the Cottonwood Room of the Union, with the meeting to begin at 12:00 p.m. instead of 12:30. Motion passed.
- B. Mike Seymour proposed coming up with a list to present to President Schulz with ideas that could be implemented to improve our working conditions and morale. Several ideas were stated. Rob Reves moved and Pat Fine seconded a motion to table action on this item until next month in order to give Senate members time to think of other

ideas and to check with their constituents. Motion passed. Ideas can be submitted before next month's meeting to Janice Taggart.

- C. Rob Reves moved and Pat Fine seconded a motion to hold a \$10 gift card exchange at our December 5 meeting. Motion passed. Dale Billam will organize refreshments.
- D. Mike Seymour reported that he would be attending a union meeting December 8, and if there were any issues that needed to be addressed to contact him.

XIII. Adjournment

Mike Ashcraft moved to adjourn the meeting. Annette Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Fine

Classified Senate Secretary