

MINUTES
CLASSIFIED SENATE
2/10/05

The Classified Senate met Thursday, February 10, 2005, at 3:30 p.m., Prairie Room, Memorial Union.

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by President Phil Woodford.

2. Roll Call

Members present: Darren Silkman (alternate for Nancy Cunningham), Eileen Roberts (for Jan Cutright), Robert Degenhardt, Connie Ernst, Leanna Fross, Karen McCullough, Darlene Schippers, Cheryl Schmeidler, and Phil Woodford.

Members absent: Angela Barger, Vickie Fisher, Joe Geist, Donetta Lang, Jordan Munsch, Lesly Rupp, Cindy Weigel.

3. Approval of January 20, 2005 Minutes

Darlene Schippers and Connie Ernst made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Account balances for Classified Senate:

Endowment Scholarships	Beginning Balance	\$2069.12
	Ending Balance	\$1620.32
Hospitality Fund	Balance	\$ 19.69
OOE	Balance	\$ 530.94

5. Committee Reports

Orientation: A welcome letter was sent to Mandi Stephanson, Sr. Administrative Assistant, Information Networking. Lacey Ziegler, Information Networking, and Carolyn Gnad, Kelly Center, separated from the university. Kristin Lindsten, Career Services, is now Kristin Peters.

Legislative: Because of bad weather, Legislative Information Day scheduled for Feb. 8, 2005, was postponed. (Note: Legislative Information Day has been rescheduled for March 15, 2005.)

Social: No cards were sent to employees.

Scholarship: No report.

6. Old Business

Pens will be given with congratulations to Bev Glassman, Special Education, and Neil Werth, Grounds, acknowledging 5-year service anniversaries.

7. New Business

A. Annual Meeting - April

The annual Classified Senate meeting will be held in April in lieu of the regular Senate meeting. Cheryl Schmeidler, Connie Ernst, Darlene Schippers and Karen McCullough volunteered to serve on a committee to plan the annual meeting. Suggested speakers include Representative Eber

Phelps, Senator Janis Lee, Dan Heater, Member, State Employee Advisory Committee, or Debra Prideaux, Alumni/Governmental Relations.

B. Classified Employee Survey

Phil Woodford expressed appreciation to employees returning comments on the survey and to Cheryl Schmeidler for putting the responses together. Eileen Roberts asked that a correction be noted to one survey response: Faculty members do not receive a cost of living increase. Faculty salaries are paid from a pool of money and is given solely on merit. The deadline for responding to the survey will be extended to allow for additional staff comments.

C. Legislative Issues

Phil Woodford noted that funding for K-12 and higher education is a major topic of discussion in the legislature. There is no legislative mandate to allocate funding for cost of living adjustments or for higher education. The funding must come from existing revenues or new sources of revenue must be identified. Phil recommended that classified employees stay in touch with elected officials by phone, e-mail and mailed letters.

D. Staff Development Committee

Please forward nominations to Phil Woodford for a classified employee who is interested in serving a three-year term on the Staff Development Committee. Joyce Klaus' term expires next month.

E. Other

Phil Woodford was asked for an update on the status of the KU proposal for classified employees to withdraw from the civil service system. The following information has been received in a memo from Tom Kuhn, Personnel Director, to all classified employees: Two pieces of legislation are currently being looked at by the legislature. They are House Bill No. 2020 and Senate Bill No. 74. Both bills are very similar and, if passed, would allow the Board of Regents to authorize any state university to convert all classified staff employee positions to the unclassified service. This would, in effect, remove those positions from the State Civil Service system. It is important to note that this is enabling legislation, meaning that it simply gives the authority to the Board of Regents to allow the universities to develop an alternative employment system for administering all aspects of employment. At the present time, Fort Hays State University has no plans to pursue making this change. Any changes in the future would only be entertained after a very comprehensive review and dialogue with all affected classified employees. The full text of the bills may be read at the following links:

<http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2006/2020.pdf> and
<http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2006/74.pdf>

8. Announcements

The next regular Senate meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 3:30 p.m., in the Prairie Room, Memorial Union.

9. Adjournment

Darlene Schippers and Leanna Fross made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by Cheryl Schmeidler
Secretary/Treasurer