

**Classified Senate Annual Report
For the period May, 2003 to April, 2004**

Classified Senate Members

President

Cynthia Cline Provost's Office, Univ. Relations, KSBDC, President's Office, Registrar's Office and Kelly Center

Vice-President

Donna Augustine Grounds and Printing

Secretary-Treasurer

Cheryl Schmeidler Motor Pool, Skilled Crafts I and Physical Plant

Angela Barger CTELT, Forsyth Library, and Virtual College
Kathleen Albert College of Arts and Sciences and Graduate School
Gloria Mlinek College of Health & Life Sciences, College of Business & Leadership,
College of Education & Technology
Joe Geist Sternberg Museum and Security
Robert Degenhardt HHP Custodial, University Farm and Athletics
Darlene Schippers Fiscal Operations, Administration & Finance,
Auditor and Personnel
Cindy Weigel Computing Center and Power Plant
Deb Allen Custodial Services I
Tom Martin Custodial Services II
Jordan Munsch Skilled Crafts II, Warehouse and Facilities Planning
Leanna Fross Residential Life
Phillip Woodford Police, Memorial Union, and Senior Companion/Foster Grandparent
Simone Werth Admissions, Career Planning, Financial Aid, Alumni & Student Affairs

Tom Kuhn: Personnel Director and Advisor

Committees

Orientation Committee: Simone Werth, Gloria Mlinek

Numerous welcome/informational letters were sent to new classified employees.

Scholarship Committee: Elaine Driscoll, Doug Joy, Tom Martin, Leanna Fross, Gloria Mlinek
Summer '03 – Scholarships were awarded to Diane Henderson, Gary Hoffman, and Karen McCullough. Fall '03 – Scholarships were awarded to Wanda Hinton, Kristen Lindsten, Deborah Storer, Carrie Longpine, and Darlene Cole. Spring '04 – Scholarships were awarded to Diane Henderson, Jordan Munsch, and Elaine Augustine.

For the third year in a row, classified employees donated in excess of \$1,000 to the Classified Scholarship during the campus fund drive. When the \$1,000 goal was met, President Hammond then matched it with an additional \$1,000 each year. Classified employees are very appreciative of his generosity and commitment to employee training and education.

Legislative Tracking Committee: Debbie Allen, Tom Martin

Classified employees received a 1.5% salary increase in FY '04 and the longevity bonus was funded.

Cheryl Schmeidler represented FHSU at the July 26, 2003 meeting of the Kansas Council of Classified Senates at Emporia. Fifteen classified employees from KU, KSU, ESU, WSU, FHSU and PSU attended the meeting.

FHSU hosted the annual meeting of the Kansas Council of Classified Senates on October 17, 2003. The KCCS FY '05 Position Paper was drafted at this meeting.

Cindy Cline, Deb Allen, and Robert Degenhardt attended the Legislative Information Day in Topeka on February 10, 2004.

Social Committee: Angela Barger

Numerous sympathy, get well, congratulatory, and thank you cards were sent by this committee.

Financial Report

The beginning balance of the Classified Senate OOE account was \$627.00, plus \$398.40 which carried over from FY '03. The ending balance for '04 was \$196.94. This fund was used for name tags, printing, pens, lunch for the Kansas Council of Classified Senates meeting, travel expenses, and office supplies. President Hammond's support in providing refreshments at the annual meeting was appreciated.

The Endowment Hospitality Account remained at \$19.69 the entire year.

The Classified Scholarship account balance at the May 13, 2003 meeting was \$1,626.32. A year later, at the May 11, 2004 meeting, the Scholarship account balance was \$2,160.07. Eleven employees were able to take classes as a result of the scholarship aid.

Annual Meeting Notes

Fifty-eight FHSU employees attended the annual meeting on April 13, 2004. State Senator Janis Lee, and State Representative Eber Phelps, addressed the assembly.

Senator Lee has served as a Kansas Senator for sixteen years. Highlights of Senator Lee's address follow:

- The bill including a 3% cost-of-living raise for state employees has passed both Houses of the state legislature and is on the way to the Governor. It will cost the state \$24M to fund this. At this point, the Governor has this amount budgeted. However, April revenue estimates will be available before this bill is signed, and will be taken into consideration.
- The state budget for FY '04 was \$10.2 billion; the state budget for FY '05 is \$10.18 billion, but more of this budget is state-funded; there are not as many federal dollars in the FY '05 budget.
- Sales tax and income tax are the two major sources of funding for state revenues. K-12 education consumes 53% of the budget; Regents education consumes 13% of the budget; Medicaid consumes 16% of the state budget. Medicaid is 40% state-funded and 60% federally-funded. State Medicaid expenses are increasing the fastest of these categories and are growing by \$100-150M/year. (Medicare is fully federally funded.)
- The state paid \$23M of the increase in health care costs last year. State employees paid \$7M. Rising insurance premiums and decreased coverage are also affecting private sector employees.
- State employees currently contribute 4% to KPERS and the state contributes 4.58%. The state contribution is expected to increase to 5.68% (by ? year) and increase again to 7.48% in the year 2010. These increases will stabilize the KPERS fund which is currently at \$9B.
- Currently there are no provisions in the KPERS plan to allow a cost of living increase.

- The longevity bonus has not been discussed in the legislature this year and it is not included with the 3% increase. It is not part of the appropriations bill. The state will keep the ending balance above \$100M. If the longevity bonus would cause the ending balance to fall below this amount, Senator Lee does not believe it would be funded.
- There has been no consideration given to adding steps to the top of the pay scale.
- Neither Senator Lee nor Representative Phelps had heard that OOE funding would lapse at the end of June. They thought rolling unused funds to the next fiscal year worked well last year.

Five Year Pen

The policy of giving an appreciation gift to an employee when that employee left FHSU was changed this year. Each classified employee now receives a pen from Classified Senate when that employee reaches his/her five-year employment anniversary at FHSU.

Tuition Waiver

The FHSU Faculty Senate forwarded and the FHSU administration supported a tuition waiver plan for FHSU employees, spouses and dependents. Response from the Board of Regents was unfavorable, so Dr. Hammond withdrew the proposal from consideration this year. His action will allow a tuition waiver proposal to be resubmitted to the Board of Regents again next year.

Sick Leave Conversion

In FY '04, classified employees were able to convert up to 40 hours of vacation overage to sick leave at the end of the fiscal year.

Thank You

The following Senators have completed terms of office and will not be returning to the Classified Senate next year. Thank you for representing your constituents so well!
Gloria Mlinek, Deb Allen, Tom Martin, Donna Augustine, Simone Werth and Cindy Cline

Welcome to the following newly elected Senators!

Connie Ernst, Vickie Fisher, Donetta Lang, Lesly Rupp, Karen McCullough and Jan Cutright.

Thank you to Darlene Schippers and Leanna Fross for agreeing to serve a second term on Classified Senate.

Annual report prepared and submitted by Cheryl Schmeidler, Secretary/Treasurer.