

**Kansas Council of Classified Senates  
Fall Meeting, October 17, 2003**

The following people attended the fall meeting of the Kansas Council of Classified Senates: Cindy Cline, Gloria Mlinek, Jordan Munsch, Donna Augustine, Cheryl Schmeidler, Darlene Schippers, and Deborah Allen, representing FHSU; Kathy Jansen, Beverly Koerner, Susan Hewitt, Dennis Constance, Maxine Younces, Nancy Brune, and Allen Eastland representing the University of Kansas; Marlene Walker, Bill Glover, Theresa McCarthy, Connie Schmidt, and Gay Youngman representing Kansas State University; Dianne Nutt, Andrew Huyett, and Kathy Benard representing Pittsburg State University; Lloyd Harp and Ellen Abbey representing Wichita State University; and Nancy Standiferd and Barbara Rosenquist representing Emporia State University. Steve Culver, FHSU Residential Life Director, served as moderator. Others present: Don Dooley and Michael M\_\_\_, KAPE representatives.

FHSU Classified Senate President, Cindy Cline, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Following introductions of those present, FHSU President Dr. Edward Hammond also welcomed the group to campus. Each university presented their respective position papers and a unified position paper was developed that focused on salary and benefit enhancements.

Information/discussion was shared as to:

- \* Campuses being closed during Christmas break. KU and PSU employees have the option of working the week after Christmas.
- \* Individuals receiving less than \$8.85/hour are working below the current Federal Poverty Salary Guideline. Sixty-eight civil service salary steps are at or below the poverty level. A living wage is 130% of the poverty level.
- \* House Bill 2126 was discussed. You can find this bill relating to state employee compensation on the Kansas Legislature website: [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org) under Bill Search.
- \* Allowing a choice between TIAA and KPERS for retirement choices.
- \* The state contribution level to KPERS is too low. State employees presently contribute 4% of gross wages and the state contributes 4.58% of gross wages.
- \* It costs the state \$35M to fund a one-step increase on the civil service pay scale, per information presented by the guest from KAPE .
- \* The recent vote of classified employees at KU to allow an exploration of an alternative to the civil service system passed by 91 votes, or 54% of those voting. It now has to be approved by the Board of Regents. Enabling legislation would have to be passed allowing KU to withdraw from the civil service system. July 1<sup>st</sup> of Fiscal Year 2006 was projected to be the earliest that an alternative system could be in place. University of Kansas employees would still be state employees under the alternative plan. Funding for the plan would come from the Tuition Block Grant and Tuition Enhancements. Forty-five people were laid off at KU a year ago. The Human Resources Department helped them find other jobs. It was felt that KAPE personnel will be lobbying legislators not to approve the KU request for an alternative to the civil service system.
- \* Faculty/staff at FHSU plan to request approval for a tuition/fee waiver program again this year.

There was discussion about the presence of two people representing the Kansas Association of Public Employees (KAPE). They had been invited to the meeting by one of the K-State representatives. They voluntarily left the meeting rather than cause a vote to be taken asking them to leave.

The date for Legislative Information Day was set for Tuesday, February 10, 2004. Classified employees will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the State Capitol Rotunda. Classified employees at each university will make appointments to meet with senators and representatives from their respective areas as soon as possible (no later than early January). Dennis Constance and others from KU will coordinate appointment schedules with legislative committee chairs, the ranking minority leader, house leadership, all of the Appropriations committee, and all of the Ways and Means committee. The Kansas Council Position Paper for FY 2005 may be mailed to legislators ahead of time and a copy should also be presented to them on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Kansas Council of Classified Senates will meet on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m., at Emporia State University to discuss Legislative Information Day, discuss the status of current legislation, plan additional activities, and discuss how to best meet the needs of both new and long-term state employees regarding annual leave and sick leave earnings.

According to the rotation schedule, Emporia State will be the host for the Fall, 2004 Position Paper meeting; Wichita State will be the host for Fall, 2005; and the University of Kansas will be the host for Fall, 2006. These would be followed in successive years by Pittsburg State, K-State and Fort Hays State.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Schmeidler  
FHSU Classified Senate