

September 5, 2002

Unclassified Professional Senate

Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2002

- I. Call to order: President Mike Erickson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:35 am in 425 Ahlberg Hall.
 - a. Senators present: Tom Brock, Connie Dietz, Rob Gibson, Marsha Gladhart, Linda Matson, Ellie Skokan, Bill Wynne, Dotty Harpool, David Butler, Joe Kleinsasser, Kevin Crabtree, John Lee, Kaye Monk-Morgan, Rich Renollet.
 - b. Senators absent: Sue Burdette, Klent Harkness.

- II. Review of Agenda: President Erickson reviewed agenda, nothing added.

- III. Review and Approval of July 18 minutes: Senator Brock moved and Senator Dietz seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Vote unanimously approved motion. Minutes from the August 15 meeting were circulated but because there was not a quorum present at that meeting there was no vote.

- IV. President's report
 - a. President Erickson had nothing new to report.

- V. Committee reports
 - A. Service – committee met and recently sent information on the UP Listserv regarding the “Race for the Cure”. At this point, the Biology department has 8 people signed up and there are 14 total. Ellen Horn has also created a team. The UP group will wear WSU t-shirts of their own during the race. The race is scheduled for September 28, 2002. Committee also is working with the “Race for Rachel” and Deb Kennedy met with the committee to give them more information. This race is scheduled for September 21, 2002. The committee is also working on compiling an events list. They plan to do “Stuff the Bus” again so watch the UP listserv for more information.
 - B. Professional Development – nothing to report.
 - C. Recognition – nothing to report.
 - D. Legislative– will meet in 2 weeks. There are 13 people interested in serving on this committee; if others are interested they should contact Senator Dietz. Senator Dietz circulated a “Gubernatorial Candidates Positions” handout and highlighted their response to higher education. The report predicts another difficult year upcoming.
 - E. Grievance– nothing to report.
 - F. Advisory / UP Staff Reduction – Linda Black is waiting on direction from President Erickson for the committee work. President Erickson has asked them to review policies and procedures for staff reduction to be prepared for if the situation arises. Senator Kleinsasser noted there were some positions in Administration and Finance that were moved to ¾ time and to watch for an article about the budget situation in the upcoming *Inside WSU*.
 - G. Employee Club – no report.

- VI. Continuing Business
 - A. Appointment of At-Large Senate Seat – Senator Dietz moved and Senator Brock 2nd a motion to appoint Rich Renollet as at-large senator. Vote unanimously approved.
 - B. Group Health Care Insurance Costs will increase to employees for this year and this

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past year. The increase range is 12 – 46%. Human Resources has been receiving employee concerns recently. Senator Matson would like to know more about the

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Employee Advisory Committee such as: Who is on it from WSU? If someone is on it from WSU, whom did they talk with to make these decisions? Senator Harpool pointed out that this would affect retention of staff because benefits will no longer be considered strong. Mike Turner said WSU had someone on the EAC in the past but nobody is currently on that committee. He believes the committee was presented with a few options and had to choose the best of those options. President Erickson has received concerns by an individual on campus that did not receive any salary increase but their insurance costs will rise. Senator Butler would like the UPS to write a letter of expression of concern about how we are being treated now. Senator Matson would like to get someone to volunteer to be on the EAC. Senator Renollet would like the letter of expression to be sure to tell them not to forget us when times are good again. Mike Turner said that being on the EAC involves a lot of travel back and forth to Topeka. Senator Lee asked if the rate structure was going to be available soon to the WSU campus. Mike Turner said it should be coming soon and they plan to get it out as soon as possible. The structure is equal across the board for all classified and unclassified. It was noted that the discount for non-smokers was being eliminated and replaced with a new health risk assessment tool. President Erickson will be contacting Terry Bernatis and drafting the letter of expression.

- C. President Erickson circulated a letter from The Kansas Association of Public Employees, Mike Turner said there are 2 groups of employees that he knows of on campus represented by this group, however, this group does not represent employees not in these groups. They have a lawyer for the group in Topeka. Senator Harpool said a classified staff member told her she was, "excited to use the lawyer services" and that those services were implied to be free. Mike Turner will address this letter being sent on campus with them directly. President Erickson wanted to stress that this group does not represent Unclassified Professionals.

VII. As May Arise

A. President Erickson asked the senate to start thinking about when we should have the General Meeting and be thinking about things to do during that meeting. Senator Butler suggested moving the meeting to later in the fall so that the UPS can give more information about the budget problems. President Erickson suggested having it after the elections in November. Senator Dietz suggested inviting Board of Regents member James Grier to the meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Meeting minutes submitted by Kevin Crabtree, UPS Secretary