



University Support Staff Senate Archives

Classified Senate

Academic year 1996-1997

Classified Times

Keeping the WSU Classified Staff Informed!

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WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Classified Senate

News for all classified employees of Wichita State University

NEWS

A Message from the President

Last summer the Budget Committee of the State of Kansas finally began researching the salaries and benefits of classified employees. Companies across Kansas, including local ones, testified regarding their salaries, and a request for comparisons of benefits with other states was issued. The disparities are very noticeable. I urge you to contact your classified senator for a copy of this comparison. **You can take part** in the legislative process. Study the comparison and ask your local legislators for their support when it comes time for them to vote.

Many issues that concern the classified staff are being addressed in Topeka. New and veteran legislators were elected last November and they are working on legislation that affects all of us. Some of these legislators are concerned about classified issues and some of them need to learn about these issues. Legislators use input from their constituents when they vote on requests for the limited money in the Kansas budget. They do not have time to research every issue; many groups prepare information for them.

The Kansas Council of Senates is one group that represents more than 5,000 classified university employees. The Council consists of classified representatives from all six Regents universities who research and share information on classified issues. **You can take part** by accepting the responsibility of educating your two state legislators.

Classified representatives from all Regents universities will go to Topeka on

January 28 for Legislative Information Day sponsored by the Kansas Council of Senates. We are making appointments to visit with legislators. The Position Paper Committee has prepared a hard copy of their research on classified issues to present to the individual legislators or to share with you. **You can take part** by obtaining a copy of the researched information and discussing it with your state representatives or you can take part by going with us to Topeka. Contact your classified senator for information.

How does the University budget concern you? At our last senate meeting, the classified senators prepared a list of questions and concerns about the University budget. **Mary Herrin, Associate Vice President and Director of Budget** will address the Classified Senate meeting on January 22, with answers to these questions. **Roger Lowe, Vice President for Administration and Finance**, will answer questions that arise from Mary's presentation. **You can take part** by attending this meeting and utilizing the information presented.

You will have the issues, the research, and the answers to your questions in one meeting. **You can take part**. Please accept our invitation to attend this special Budget Information Meeting.

--Kathy Farney

All classified employees invited!

Classified Senate Meeting

*Budget Information Meeting
with Mary Herrin and
Roger Lowe*

3:30-5 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22, 1997
CAC Great Plains Room,
215-217

Mark your calendar:

All classified employees are welcome at *all* Classified Senate meetings. Mark your calendar for future meetings. All are held 3:30-5 p.m. on Wednesdays.

March 5, CAC Commons

April 16, CAC Great Plains Room,
215-217

May 28, CAC Great Plains Room,
215-217

MARY ANN NELSON
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WSU Classified Senate Position Paper 1997

House Bill 2211

- Repeal that part of HB2211 which replaces only 75% of the classified positions vacated by retirement.

Salaries

- Provide funding for a 2.5% across the board Cost of Living increase, effective June 18, 1997.
- Continue funding the 2.5 step increase and add two (2) steps to the top end of the pay matrix.
- Continue funding the longevity bonuses at \$50 per year of service, to be paid annually to all employees, beginning at 10 years with NO CAP.

- Fund the completion and implementation of the comprehensive classification and Job Rate Study. In addition, provide continuing funding for a permanent on-going classification and job Rate Study in order to keep classification and job rates current with changes in job responsibilities due to constantly changing technology.

Leave Benefits

- To encourage accumulation of sick leave, allow employees a well day (discretionary day) after accumulating forty-eight (48) hours of unused sick leave.
- To encourage accumulation of sick leave, give employees the option to convert a higher percentage of sick leave to years of service at retirement, or at separation from state employment with the option of donating the rest of their unused sick leave to the shared leave program.

- Increase annual leave for employees with twenty or more (20+) years of service to sixteen (16) hours per month with a maximum annual leave accumulation of two hundred seventy-two (272) hours.
- Allow employees to receive payment for unused annual leave of up to five (5) days over the maximum annual leave accumulation.

KPERS Retirement

- Increase the percentage component of the formula from 1.75% to 2.25% with final average salary based on the highest twelve (12) quarters of participation.
- Shelter KPERS contributions from Kansas State income taxes. Continue to support a contributory retirement plan for all public employees and seek passage of legislation to correct the inequities that exist between KPERS and KF&P retirement plans.
- Provide for annual increase of retirement pay to retirees, based on and at least equal to the Consumer Price Index.

Health Care

- Maintain access to a variety of affordable options.
- Provide funding of health insurance premium to age 65 for early retirees taking advantage of 85+ retirement plan.

Privatization

- We ask that the elected representatives of the Kansas Legislature remember and include us in the dialogue concerning privatization.

Two New Senators

The January 22 Senate meeting will be the first official meeting for two newly appointed classified senators.

Beverly Klag of the Morrison Hall Copy Center will represent

employees in EEO 4, and Robert Fullerton of the Physical Plant Buildings and Grounds crew will represent EEO 7.

Welcome Beverly and Robert!

Get involved!

Legislative Information Day

January 28, 1997

State Capitol in Topeka

Sponsored by the Kansas Council of Senates

Join a group going from WSU to Topeka to speak with our legislators. To go, you must take a day of annual leave and pay your own way. Car pools are being formed. For more information, contact Lois Nicholas, x3595.

If you aren't able to go to Topeka for the Legislative Information Day, we hope you will at least get informed about some issues pertinent to classified employees (see position paper at left, for starters) and contact your state senator and representative in the manner that is most comfortable for you. They cannot read minds but they do listen.

Did you know...

- The human resource moratorium, i.e., the hiring freeze, for state agencies was rescinded in October.
- The 60-day waiting period for filing vacant positions has been eliminated.
- The decision to freeze reclassifications from the classified to unclassified service has also been rescinded.
- The closing of the state hospitals is going to impact WSU. The Winfield State Hospital, because of its proximity to Wichita, will probably have the most direct affect. Those state employees will have the option of moving into openings at other state agencies.

Classified Senate Newsletter

Kathy Farney, *President*
Ellen Horn, *Newsletter Editor*

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