



# University Support Staff Senate Archives

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Classified Senate

Academic year 2005-2006

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## **Classified Times**

*Keeping the WSU Classified Staff Informed!*

**Volume 3, Issue 2**  
**Winter, 2006**

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**Additional information:** Archived in SOAR: Shocker Open Access  
Repository at: <https://soar.wichita.edu/handle/10057/15515>

Wichita State University  
Classified Senate  
Lloyd Harp, President

Senate Web site:  
www.wichita.edu/classified

# Classified Times

*Keeping the WSU Classified Staff Informed!*

**Volume 3, Issue 2** **Winter, 2006**

### Inside this Issue:

- Page 2:
- TABOR
  - Community Service Projects
- Page 3:
- Spotlight on Wanda Hughes
  - Committee Updates
- Page 4:
- Department Focus:  
Disability Services
  - Support Staff Proposal Update

## Letter from Lloyd

Here we are in the middle of another school year. I hope the best for you in the New Year. We will be starting the election process soon and look forward to many nominations in each open senate position. Please consider becoming involved in the classified senate as each one of us is important.

As the state legislature opened its 2006 session on January 9, Governor Sebelius addressed the Legislators and the people of the State of Kansas. We should all be interested in what she had to say about the state budget, and state employees. We all should understand that we have two legislative responsibilities as citizens of the State of Kansas. Our first duty is to vote intelligently for people who will represent our wishes. Then we have the responsibility to communicate with those who we elected. The senators and representatives from our home areas covet our contact. They look forward to letters, phone calls, emails, or personal contact with their constituents. I remind you that we vote for them, and we work for them. They are the only ones that can fund our wages and improve our benefits. I also remind you that we must not use state time or resources to contact them.

In February a group from the Classified Senate will make a day trip to Topeka in conjunction with classified groups from the other four Regents schools who have classified employees. We will be there to contact as many senators and representatives as possible to discuss the needs of all classified employees. Definitely the main discussion point will be a pay plan.

Again, I wish you a healthy and happy 2006 and as a representative of the Classified Senate, I thank you for the trust you have in our group.

*Lloyd Harp*  
President, Classified Senate

MARY A NELSON Box 68

### Tuition Assistance Deadlines:

Benefits eligible employees may apply for a WSU class or seminar for credit towards a degree, professional growth or development, or job-related training.

- At least one month before the class begins.
- At least two weeks before a CMD seminar.

Guidelines and applications are available at Human Resources (ext. 6122), or on-line at the Human Resources Web site.

## Your Sedgwick County Delegation of Legislators

House of Representatives			Senate		
Name	District	Name	District	Name	District
Brunk, Steve	85	Loganbill, Judy	86	Schodorf, Jean	25
DeCastro, Willa	96	Masterson, Ty	99	Journey, Phil	26
Dillmore, Nile	92	Miller, Melody	89	Donovan, Les	27
Faust-Goudeau, Oletha	84	McLeland, Joe	94	Petersen, Mike	28
Flaharty, Geraldine	98	Myers, Don	82	Betts, Don	29
Garcia, Delia	103	Pottorff, JoAnn	83	Waglè, Susan	30
Goico, Mario	100	Powers, Ted	81	McGinn, Carolyn	31
Huebert, Steve	90	Sawyer, Tom	95		
Huy, Bonnie	87	Swenson, Dale	97		
Kelsey, Richard	93	Ward, Jim	88		
Landwehr, Brenda	91	Watkins, Jason	105		



## What is Taxpayer Bill Of Rights?

by Robbie Norton, [Robbie.norton@wichita.edu](mailto:Robbie.norton@wichita.edu)

I am sure most of you have heard others talking about TABOR. If you haven't, you need to start some investigating of your own. But just what is TABOR? TABOR stands for "Taxpayer Bill of Rights."

TABOR, according to the Big Tent Coalition Organization, is a state constitutional amendment that limits the growth of state and local revenues or expenditures to a highly restrictive formula - the annual change in population plus inflation.

TABOR, according to opponents will create conditions that each year pit programs and services against each other for survival. And once such limits are placed in a state constitution, they usually cannot be removed or modified. They undermine existing services for children, youth, and families and make any new initiatives virtually impossible to undertake.

According to David Bradley from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, higher education — more precisely, the operating support of the state's six public universities would have faced cuts of \$76 million in FY 2005, if Kansas had initiated TABOR in 1993.

- To cut spending at the six public universities by \$76 million, Kansas could have reduced its general support across the board and made up the difference through increases in undergraduate and graduate in-state tuition and fees. The increase would have to average \$1,400 per

year, which would represent a 33 percent increase in tuition and fees. Increases would range from 26 percent at Kansas State University to 47 percent at Fort Hays State University. These increases would be on top of tuition hikes ranging from 41 percent to 99 percent at the six public universities from 2000 to 2005.

- Rather than raising tuition across the board, the state could eliminate its entire general support for Wichita State University. To remain viable, Wichita State would have to charge the full rate to students, rather than the in-state rate.
- Alternatively, state universities could choose not to raise tuition but reduce instructional faculty instead to make up the \$76 million funding shortfall. The state's six public universities combined could reduce teaching staff by about 1,200, or 39 percent. This would increase course size, reduce course offerings, and likely lower the quality of instruction across the public university system in Kansas. (David Bradley)

What can this mean for Wichita State Classified employees? To make sure you fully understand what could happen to the university and its staff, you need to do your research. Check out these web sites:

[www.kac.org/docs/9-12-05StateofDeclineTABORKS.pdf](http://www.kac.org/docs/9-12-05StateofDeclineTABORKS.pdf)  
[www.cbpp.org/10-19-05sfp.htm](http://www.cbpp.org/10-19-05sfp.htm)

## Community Service Projects

by Robbie Norton, [Robbie.norton@wichita.edu](mailto:Robbie.norton@wichita.edu)

In December, Community Service Projects for WSU classified employees began with Susan Fordyce, Larry Ingram and Bill Patton attending a food handler's workshop to acquire their food handler's license in order to be able to volunteer to prepare meals at the Lords Diner after the holidays. The Lords Diner has a lot of help in December, so Susan, Larry and Bill will be donating their time in January. Susan encourages other WSU staff to acquire their food handler's license and join them in helping those less fortunate. If others want to volunteer, Susan will be happy to share information on what is required of the volunteers.

Food Handlers Classes will be held on the first and third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. and on the first and third Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Classes last approximately two and a half hours; students need only attend one session; advance registration/reservation not needed. There is no fee for taking the class. Spanish-speaking classes are held four (4) times a year and a sign language interpreter can be arranged when necessary. Classes are held in the auditorium at the City of Wichita Department of Environmental Services, 1900 E. 9th Street, Wichita, KS 67214. Please use the parking lot

east of the building and use the east entry door by the flagpole. If you have any questions about the classes, please feel free to call (316) 268-8351.

After finishing the class, volunteers will need to get in touch with Inter-Faith Ministries (316-264-9303) to set up a time they are available for their voluntary services.

For more information about community service projects, contact Susan Fordyce at 978-7962.



## Spotlight on Wanda Hughes

By Sheryl McKelvey, sheryl.mckelvey@wichita.edu

Wanda Hughes is an Administrative Specialist in the Dean's Office of the College of Education

### How long have you worked on campus and in your current position?

I have been on campus for 19 years. When I started here I worked in the Dean's Office in the College of Health Professions. Since then I have worked in the Department of Health, Administration and Gerontology (which has since been renamed) and the Ulrich Museum. I transferred to the College of Education in 1999, so I've been in my current position for 6 years.

### Describe your work environment and responsibilities.

I work in the Dean's Office and sometimes it's busy with one thing and another (such as the accreditation visit that we went through in 2004). More often than not this office is a very comfortable place to be. I am responsible for tenure & promotion, sabbaticals, evaluations, special events for the college (Kansas Teacher of the Year, COE Awards Night to name a couple), arranging faculty meetings, time screens, calendars for the dean and two associate deans, and the mail.

### What is the most unusual situation you've encountered at work?

The most unusual situation I have encountered so far has been chairing the Diversity Committee in the College. I was nominated by the faculty and voted on unanimously to serve as chair. I don't think that happens on a regular basis. I was very pleased to hold that position for the last year.

### What did you do prior to coming to

### Wichita State University?

I traveled around a lot before coming to WSU. I was raised in Wichita, attended East High and completed a semester at WSU before deciding to leave for "a better life". I moved to Colorado, met my husband, and started traveling with him, working various jobs along the way, and raising my four sons. I finally returned to Wichita in 1982, attended a business college, applied for a job here on campus and the rest is history.

### What are your interests outside of work?

I help my brothers and sisters care for my father. He is 91, lives alone and is recovering from knee replacement surgery. I believe that he is totally amazing. I also like to visit with my grandchildren and read.

### How did you become involved with the Classified Senate?

I was contacted and told that I had been nominated to serve on the Classified Senate and was asked if I would be interested in running. I didn't think I had a ghost of a chance to be elected to serve, but I said yes anyway. I was elected, which was a surprise to me, and I have enjoyed being on the Senate. I have become more interested in what happens on campus day to day rather than just coming to work from 8 to 5. I believe the best part has been meeting people that I would have otherwise never known.

### How can your involvement in the Senate assist you in your job?

I know more of the classified staff. I have more information about who to call or where to call to get things taken care of, or to find certain information. I

think that making connections on campus with other classified staff is very important. It's that personal touch which leads to camaraderie. I wanted to get more involved in advocating for salary and benefits and trying to become a part of the solution. Being a part of the Senate has moved me past sitting back and letting things happen. I have become more involved in other activities as well because of being on the Senate. I am on the Transition to Respect Committee and the NCA Steering Committee, as well as a working group, which is a sub-committee of the steering committee. I am more knowledgeable about WSU than I've ever been, and feel good about what I've learned. I want to be a part of having the students in Wichita Public Schools, as well as surrounding areas, look to WSU as a place to come, learn and grow.

### What do you see as the major issue for classified staff in the next five years?

There are some potential changes in the making for the next five years and beyond. The idea of moving from the classified system to unclassified support staff is just beginning to be looked at here at WSU. We have a "living document" that has been sent out and town hall meetings will be planned so that this document can be discussed. Discussions about which way to go, I'm sure, will be the topic of most importance for at least the next year or so. It should prove to be quite an interesting topic as all the pros and cons are weighed and debated, and a final decision is made as to where we go from here.

## Classified Senate Committee Updates

by Lori Evans, lori.evans@wichita.edu

Three members of the Community Service Committee attended training and received their Food Handlers license to help prepare meals for those in need.

February 15th is Legislative Day where Senate members and other classified personnel will travel to Topeka to discuss the position paper and issues facing state employees with their

legislators. If you are interested in going, contact Lloyd Harp at ext. 3450 or email Lloyd.harp@wichita.edu

Shocker Pride Picnic Committee members will be meeting soon. Letters have been sent to all campus employees asking for nominations of classified, unclassified, and faculty employees who have demonstrated outstanding performance.



Wichita State University  
Classified Senate  
Lloyd Harp, President

Senate Web site:  
[www.wichita.edu/classified](http://www.wichita.edu/classified)

2005-2006

#### Classified Senate

Fawn Beckman  
Donna Belt  
Shannon  
Bowman-Roberts  
Don Brooks  
Stephen Carlson  
William Cooper  
Jane Eshelman  
Lori Evans  
Margaret Ford  
Susan Fordyce  
Lloyd Harp  
William Heard  
Wanda Hughes  
Larry Ingram  
Cathy James  
Shelly Kellogg  
Sheryl McKelvey  
Garrett Moyer  
Robbie Norton  
William Patton  
Val Peck  
Sonja Schroeder  
Willa Shelton  
Steve Torres  
Joyce Ward  
Douglas Weber  
Gregory Williams

#### Classified Senate Committees

Community Service  
Elections  
Holiday Tree Lighting  
Meet Your Senator  
Newsletter  
Position Paper  
Shocker Pride Picnic

## Department Focus: Disability Services

by Sheryl McKelvey  
[sheryl.mckelvey@wichita.edu](mailto:sheryl.mckelvey@wichita.edu)

### How long has your department been on campus?

The Office of Disability Services was originally established in 1978 as the Office of Handicapped Services and had a grand total of 2 students that it served the first semester. When it was established the main focus was on physical access on campus, mainly making classes accessible for people with mobility or visual disabilities. After 28 years ODS has grown to serve about 225 students per year with a wide range of disabilities. Grady Landrum is the current Director and has been at WSU for 15 1/2 years. During those years he has seen many changes. WSU is now one, if not, the most accessible campus in Kansas.

### What is the mission of your department?

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to enable the students, staff, faculty and guests of Wichita State University to achieve their educational goals, both personal and academic, to the fullest of their abilities, by providing and coordinating accessibility services which afford individuals with learning, mental or physical disabilities the equal opportunity to attain these goals.

We believe that every person and their needs should be looked at individually allowing them to choose what services they wish to use to help them become more independent on campus.

### What services does your office provide?

Students typically use a core of services but we can modify, adjust, or add services based on the need of the student. Core services offered are related to classroom activities and could include testing assistance, note-takers, scanned books, and sign language interpreters. We also have an

adaptive computer lab with specialty programs that people can use to be more independent in their studies. To develop a comprehensive list of services would be difficult since it could change at anytime based on the needs of students and the specific disability.

### Are these services available only to students, or are they also available to faculty/staff?

Staff and faculty who have disabilities can work with the director and personnel from Human Resources to provide workplace accommodations. Historically the ODS Director works as a consultant with HR and the employee's supervisor to determine the most appropriate accommodation.

Contrary to popular belief most workplace accommodations cost little and can be accomplished quite easily. Just like with students, staff and faculty must provide documentation of their disability to the director of ODS before accommodations are provided. ODS has forms that people can download from their web site so people can take the forms to their physicians to verify their disability.

### Where is your department located and how can you be reached?

ODS is located in Grace Wilkie Annex room 150 and has office hours from 7-7 Monday and Tuesday, 7-5 Wednesday to Friday.

Website: <http://webs.wichita.edu/disserv>

Telephone:  
316-978-6970 V  
316-978-3309 TDD  
316-978-3114 fax

## Support Staff Proposal Update

by Ellen Abbey  
[ellen.abbey@wichita.edu](mailto:ellen.abbey@wichita.edu)

The recently held forums on the support staff proposal raised many questions and much discussion in the WSU community. This is exactly what the committee was looking for: dialogue and an exchange of ideas. Thank you to the approximately 200 WSU staff members who have attended the open forums.

In addition, our proposal has caused some discussion among the members of the Board of Regents (BOR). Once SB 74 was passed, the BOR asked interested schools to write and present their own proposals. KU immediately presented its proposal which passed with very little discussion. Now that WSU has written a proposal, it has occurred to the BOR that different plans could mean different benefits among its institutions, which is causing much discussion among the institutions and BOR members and staff.

In light of this recent development, the WSU committee feels it necessary to get additional clarification from the BOR before continuing with the forums. We want to ensure what we present to you will be within the new BOR guidelines. We are also writing to several members of the Legislature to confirm the intent of language in the bill.

We appreciate your patience while we pursue answers and we will update our website with more information as it becomes available. [www.wichita.edu/supportstaff](http://www.wichita.edu/supportstaff)