

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNCLASSIFIED PROFESSIONAL SENATE
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 1996

The Senate convened at 8:30am in room 425 Ahlberg Hall.

Senators Present: Linda Black, Greg Buell, Margie Dersi, Mike Erickson, Karen Gelvin, Jim Herrman, Robert Hull, Dori Jones-Chism, Donald Knaub, Nancy Kraemer, Phillip Ladwig, Marvis Lary, Kathleen Rager, Larry Ramos, LaVona Spencer, Mike Wood

Senators Absent: Boyd White

Guests Present: Barbara Bowman, Jill Pletcher, Julie Raush

I. President Hughes addressed the Senate regarding his "vision" for unclassified professionals, the status of a program discontinuance policy, and the status of the plan to list additional positions which "serve at the pleasure of the President". He indicated that he regards unclassified professionals as the "front line" in giving assistance to students and as partners with the faculty. He asked for help with the three major areas of concern: enrollment, retention, and the budget. Though it is still uncertain, a \$500,000 deficit is possible due to the enrollment drop. Regarding discontinuance, he indicated that a variety of groups are looking at this. He would like to ultimately put everything together, look at how it applies to everybody, and then decide on a policy. The request for a more inclusive list of positions which "serve at the pleasure of the President" is an attempt by the Board of Regents to bring all the Regents institutions into compliance for legal reasons. It is also an attempt to shorten the period of time it takes to make changes when needed. Currently, it takes 2 years. President Hughes indicated that in his 14 years at Northern Arizona, it was used only twice and he sees it being used sparingly at WSU as well. He is currently struggling with a few positions here where individuals are not buying into what needs to be done. He has asked that the Presidents and the Board agree on what positions should be included in the list. Presently, WSU is not in compliance. He proposes generating the list using the clear set of guidelines he has requested, having it reviewed at WSU, sending a letter of notification to those involved, and then forwarding the list to the Board of Regents. He expects that this will be accomplished in the next few months.

President Hughes also noted that the improvements to Cessna Stadium should be complete by July 1st. The 3.1 million dollar project will be partially funded by the sale of revenue bonds which will begin in January. A 22 member task force has been put together to consider whether football should return to WSU. Linda Black will serve on the committee along with the other Senate Presidents. WSU is chairing the Board of Regents Councils this year resulting in quite a bit of extra activity for the administration. President Hughes was happy to report on recent interactions with scholarship winners and donors. He has found a way to fund the Student Involvement Center which will be located near the bowling alleys in the CAC. He concluded his remarks by responding to questions from the group.

II. The minutes of the November 14th meeting were approved as submitted. The report of the November 7th General Meeting was reviewed and accepted with one spelling change.

III. Senate President's report.

Linda Black reported that the University Cabinet meeting of December 5th dealt with sexual harassment training. It particularly focused on the student/faculty relationship. Questions arose in regard to records and how to handle them. Barbara Bowman indicated that reports of incidents of sexual harassment are increasing. It was decided that training would be on the Unclassified Professional Senate agenda for Spring. Greg Buell noted that an unclassified professional should not agree to secrecy when approached by someone regarding an incident but should indicate that if they are given information, they will take appropriate action. Those individuals who are asking for secrecy should be referred to the Counseling Center.

Other topics dealt with at the Cabinet meeting were the budget, student enrollment, extra pay for outside work, technology, and Mill Levy funding to benefit the community not just WSU programs. Kathy Farney noted that Winfield state workers have priority on classified vacancies at WSU. The Capital Improvement Committee meeting agenda was made available for review. Academic Affairs Council meeting on December 11th dealt with the interim proposal for Unclassified Professionals who teach, senior citizen audits, the Honors Convocation which Gayle Davis is handling, and the completion of the NCA report. The graduation reception for December graduates which was held earlier in the week, was attended by about 1000 individuals. Linda asked for help with her responsibilities on the football task force.

IV. Committee and Task Force Reports.

1. Professional Development - The WSU training survey results are being reviewed. The web page will utilize those results. The committee will change its focus from men's to women's basketball and develop a plan for a reception for unclassified professions before a game. They will look at the possibility of a follow on to the TQM training that was held last year.

2. Legislative - covered by President Hughes.

3. UPs who teach - Forum to be held December 13th. A draft of the interim policy developed by Dr. Patton was distributed. It was suggested that it raises some questions but it responds to many of the concerns expressed. Some of the difficulties which have been involved in this issue include the broad range of situations which fall into this category, the question of evaluation, and the lack of incentive for UPs to make a change. It is hoped that the discussion on December 13th will be helpful.

4. University Strategic Planning - no report.

5. TF on change in termination requirements - covered in Dr. Hughes remarks.

6. New employee mentoring - no report.

7. Tuition assistance - no report.

8. Library campaign - no report.

V. Other items as may occur.

The election of the new President of the Unclassified Professional Senate will take place at the January 9th meeting. Linda Black asked that individuals being asked to serve, be contacted ahead of time to see if they are willing.

Barbara Bowman indicated that the attendance at the Unclassified Professional Orientation was up to 4. She asked for support from senators.

Jim Herrman announced that Lynette Seymour will be leaving her position as manager of the bookstore on January 22nd. She is taking a position at Iowa State. Qualified candidates are being sought.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

The next senate meeting is on **January 9th at 8:30am in 425 Ahlberg Hall.**

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Rager.