Pittsburg State University Classified Senate Minutes for February 8, 2012

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Location: Inaugural Room of the Overman Student Center 1:30 pm

The Classified Senate welcomes all classified employees; you do not have to be a Senator to attend.

Welcome guests: Sara Bueltel, Terri Blessent and Heather Winzer

Senators Present: Tim Anderson, John Bartels, Dawn Bonet (by phone), Wylie DeGruson, Betty Geier, Donna Jacobs, Dacia Keller, Andrew Lance, Janet Miller, Shari Saia and Laura Werberger

Senators Absent: Barb Circle (excused), Phillip Deierling, Tracey Mussa (excused) and Greg Parker.

Agenda

1. Opening of Meeting

   Meeting called to order by Senate President Donna Jacobs at 1:32 PM.

2. Review of Meeting Minutes

   The minutes for January 11, 2012, were reviewed no revision or corrections were noted or made. The minutes were accepted after a motion for approval was made, seconded, and passed.

3. Treasurer’s Report

   The Classified Senate Operating Budget had a beginning balance of $1,895.85 on January 31, 2012. We had no expenditures for the month so the current ending balance is $1,895.85.

   The donation account had a beginning balance of $33.64. There were no expenditures so the ending balance remains at $33.64.

   A motion was made for acceptance of the treasurer’s report, seconded, and passed.

4. Committee Reports

   A. Position Paper: Donna and Tim went to Topeka with Dr. Scott on January 24th where they met with numerous legislatures to advocate on behalf of what is in our position paper. While in Topeka Donna also had the opportunity to meet with
Andrew Wiens for 45 minutes. He wasn’t optimistic about the pay plan or KPERS. They are looking at moving to a defined contribution unless you are vested. We also met with Craig Nolton and Dennis Taylor, Secretary of Administration. They said we probably wouldn’t get the pay plan to go through this year but maybe next year. Meeting with legislators was a whirlwind because Donna and Tim were the only ones that ended up being able to go. Donna spoke with Terry Calloway but he isn’t on any of the committees that affect us directly. Tim – Met with Bob Marshall, he’s on the KPERS committee. He was pretty well versed on what Jeff King was doing with KPERS. For the defined benefit it’s going to stay the same. The state is only putting in 3% and there’s no actuarial fund. They should be putting in 8% to close the 8.5 billion dollar gap. Doug Gatewood said every percent you drop you drop a billion and a half dollars. Right now our returns are in the 3% range. It’s a fluctuating number depending on the interest return. Bob Grant, Jerry Williams and Dwayne Umbarger said if you are going to push with KPERS and pay plan this is the year to do it. We need to be e-mailing them and keep on them for the next two weeks. Virgil Peck told Tim that he wasn’t very fond of people coming up here for a pay raise. Then Virgil asked Tim what the difference between the COLA and the pay plan was anyway. Bill Feuerborn from Garnett said it was going to cost 15 million to start up a new program. It now doesn’t look like here is a benefit to being a state employee. Laura Kelly is writing a proposal to fund the 4th year of the pay plan.

B. Election: Terri Blessent and Sara Bueltel were nominated and approved to become senators. Donna was sent an email of committees that need representation from classified employees. The first is a general scholarship fund committee and the second is the PSU service award ceremony committee. Janet agreed to be on the general scholarship committee. Terri Blessent agreed to be on the PSU service award ceremony committee. Dawn Bonet has put in her resignation there was a motion and it was seconded and past.

C. Legislative: Tim provided us with the KPERS Select Committee which consists of Anthony Hensely, Terrie Huntingon, Laura Kelly, Jeff King, Bob Marshall, Ty Masterson, Steve Morris, Ruth Teichman and John Vratil. If you would like to e-mail them it is their firstname.lastname @senate.ks.gov. February 26th is the turnaround date, meaning any bill that has not been introduced to the legislators will not be up for consideration. The bill or proposal will die. That is why it is so important to contact the legislators and tell them your concerns over issues that are going to affect classified employees such as KPERS and the pay plan.
D. Welcoming: We would like to welcome Marty White, Administrative Assistant in the Art Department, Olive Collins, Custodial Supervisor in the Physical Plant and Catherine Breneman, Building Trades and Landscape Maintenance.

5. Senate President’s report with University President: Meeting with President Scott wasn’t very long. They talked about the budget forum that was held on February 6th which consisted of talk about the conceal and carry bill, sexual conduct, license plates, pell grants. If you didn’t get to go to the budget forum it is on the website and Donna highly suggested that we watch it.


7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: Tim and Donna are going up on Wednesday to the Board of Regents meeting on February 15th in Topeka. That is also Pittsburg State’s Day on the Hill. Thirty football players and coaches are going to be recognized on the house and senate floor.

The Kansas Board of Regents isn’t backing any type of pay plan.

9. Good of the Order: None

10. Josh Tucker is presenting on Article 1 – adding 10th amendment items to our position paper. It all starts with the Declaration of Independence. We have a US. Constitution which the states ratified. The Constitution is the highest law of the land. So any laws that the states make, the constitution trumps it. The U.S. Constitution is a system of government not a loosely gathered series of clauses. Two parts: the first is the constitution itself, the second part is the bill of rights. The Bill of Rights is a list of rights to protect. The bill of rights is a check on the federal government. The 10th amendment is the greatest limit on federal power. The Amendment process which is article 5 is there so we can amend the constitution. The federal government is limiting which in its current state is not the case. If the size of the federal government were smaller, there may be more funds available at the State level. Josh proposes that we include some 10th amendment language in next year’s position paper.

11. Adjournment: 2:40 PM

Minutes recorded by Dacia Keller
Secretary of Classified Senate, 2011-2012