Pittsburg State University Classified Senate Minutes for January 11, 2012

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 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: Terri Blessent, Sara Buetel and Josh Tucker


Senators Absent: John Bartels (excused), Phillip Deierling, Andrew Lance, Tracey Musa (excused), Greg Parker, Shari Saia (excused).

Agenda

1. Opening of Meeting

   Meeting called to order by Senate President Donna Jacobs at 1:35 PM.

2. Review of Meeting Minutes

   The minutes for December 14, 2011, were reviewed. It was brought to my attention that Dawn Bonet should have been excused last meeting, so the minutes will be revised to note that change. 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 $1907.17 on December 31, 2011. $11.32 was spent on conference calls. The current ending balance is $1895.85.

   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: Conference call was on January 5th. The main topic of conversation was Day on the Hill which is January 24th. Each school is responsible for scheduling their own meeting times. There are to be no meeting times earlier than 9 am and we
need to be finished by 2:30 pm. If we can make it they are meeting in the basement of the cafeteria before the first meeting time then again around 11:30. Donna handed out a list of House of Representatives and Senators. President Scott will be driving us up to Day on the Hill. We asked Lesa Reves who is the President at K-State if she had heard anything from Bruce Shubert on our vacation leave proposal and at phone conference time she hadn’t heard. COBO is not backing the vacation leave proposal at this time. There are two reasons why they aren’t backing it and they are:  
1. They want to put the market adjustments back in to place and 2. They want to understand why KU’s support staff isn’t included in the vacation adjustment. Dr. Scott and the president from Ft. Hays State backed up our vacation leave proposal at COBO but overall they were met with opposition. Dr. Scott said to stay after it. Tim said that one of the reasons they may be holding back is because it’s one more advantage that unclassified have that would be a draw for people to change over to unclassified.

B. Election: We don’t have a quorum so we couldn’t vote on new people being there. We made a motion to accept Sara Buetel and Terri Blessent as new senators and we will vote on that next meeting.

C. Public Relations: New picture was put up on the website and Donna will be printing off an 8X10 picture to put up on our display board in Whitesitt.

D. Advocacy: Been in contact with Dennis Constance from KU but no date has been set yet.

E. Welcoming: Kevin Malle, Physical Plant Supervisor; Sara Bueltel, Administrative Specialist for Campus Life; Steve Buckner, Electronics Technician Senior; Keith Shively, GMRT Senior; Debra Barone, Senior Administrative Assistant for IEP; Kerry Geier, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II; Tricia Underwood, Administrative Officer for Purchasing, Chad Crain, Research Technologist in Construction Management.

5. Senate President’s report with University President: President Scott met with the Governor on December 20, 2011 on various topics including the polymer project and about losing good employees in the state. Governor is not really worried about losing good employees. He wants to reestablish the rainy day fund across the state and take the growth that that will create and offset taxes with that. The governor really liked Pittsburg State and the Polymer Center. COPS, Counsel of Presidents met the week of finals and discussed vacation leave. Tim asked President Scott what PSU would gain by having the classified
employees go to support staff. In short, Dr. Scott said two things that he considers, one is that the cost to the school would be greater. Giving the example of the last two years pay increased for the unclassified staff through tuition increase, this would have also included support staff. The amount of money would have to be greater to cover the cost. The second advantage to having classified employees go support staff is local control. We wouldn’t have to wait for the legislature to make a decision over wages and also local control when it came to matters of the appeals process in the discipline of an employee and other circumstances. The appeals process would more than likely end up on his desk or John Patterson’s desk. Dr. Scott said something to think about too is that the governor is not pro labor so more than likely the civil service board is going to be of the same mindset as the civil service board is appointed by the Governor. Donna said that for a classified employee case not once when it has gone to Topeka has a case been overturned in the last ten years.

6. **Legislative Update:** Shawn in Topeka.

7. **Old Business:** I spoke with Kayla Devereaux about buying back your first year of service. She told me it was based on age and salary. You have two options: 1. You can request a lump sum or 2. You can do payroll deduct where they will double your KPERS contribution for one year. If you want to know what your amount would be Kayla can give you an estimate.

8. **New Business:** Tom Westhoff has been promoted and he is now an unclassified position so he has resigned from Classified Senate.

9. **Good of the Order:** Josh Tucker – Legislative Article 1 in the constitution basically tells us in so many words what the legislation can do. The four going powers are very limited in nature. Nothing can happen at the federal level. The 10th amendment is one final checks and balance system. The states are the ones that give the government the power that they have. If we exert our 10th amendment rights we should be able to lessen the power that the federal government has. They are using our state as a test state because Kathleen Sebelius, who is the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, was Kansas’ former governor. Josh Tucker will be presenting on the Proper Role of the Federal Government at our next meeting.

10. **Adjournment:** 2:21 PM

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