Unclassified Professional Senate 2008-2009
August 20, 2008
207 RSC

The meeting was called to order by the President, Linda Black. She asked that all the members introduce themselves since there were many new members.

Members present: Linda Black, Lawrence Britton, Frankie Brown, Pam Chamberlin, Terry Coltrain, Maureen Dasey-Morales, Gabrielle Dodosh, Carla Eckels, Lori Evans, Janet Jensen, Phil Ladwig, Grady Landrum, Mark McCain, Vincent Miller, Billie Norden, Becky North, and Jim Pearce

The minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting were reviewed by the secretary, Billie Norden. No official business was conducted for lack of a quorum.

Linda reviewed the Constituents Head meetings held in July and August. At the July Constituents Head meeting, the Board of Regents July agenda was reviewed. Budget issues were discussed with comments from both VP Mary Herrin and VP Gary Miller. At the August meeting, Dr. Beggs shared his feelings about the budget issues, including the state mandated reductions. He does not feel this is a crisis for the university. It is a result of the natural ups and downs in the economy. The university has long had a 2% reserve plan in place to deal with the uncertainty of enrollment. A hiring freeze has not been instituted. Rather, all vacant positions will undergo a critical review on a case-by-case basis when the hiring rationale is presented. Dr. Beggs will be releasing the planning document for the budget reductions after meeting with the BOR at their retreat.

Linda stated that Delinda Royce had volunteered to be a member of the search committee for the office of Vice President of Campus Life and University Relations. Vince Miller made the motion to appoint Delinda to the committee. The motion was seconded, and passed.

Billie Norden was the only volunteer for Secretary, so the motion was made and passed to elect her secretary for the ensuing year. Gabrielle Dodosh agreed to be her backup.

Linda asked that we consider electing the President-elect early in the 2008-09 year. Mark McCain suggested that the by-laws should be reviewed with a possibility of changing the time frame for this election. Linda would like to see this election held by the end of September

The committee on a Flexible Work Schedule met with 8 members present. There was discussion on the feasibility of adjusting class scheduling, and work schedules. They will be looking at other universities to see if any have made this adjustment and how it worked. A general feeling that a 360-degree view of the situation is necessary before anything could be presented to the university.

Linda reviewed the purpose of each committee and will have a sign-up sheet at the September 3rd meeting. Terry Coltrain volunteered to work with STARS to get more participation from the Wichita area merchants, and to see what state employees are included in the STARS program. Discussed the need for an on-going committee to look at employment issues including benefits, hours, etc.

Discussion was held on creating a committee or task force to consider the Unclassified Professional representation at KBOR. KU has recently been expressing an interest. Eric Sexton was suggested as a good member for this committee.

The date for the fall general meeting will be decided at the September 3rd meeting of the UP Senate.

Linda said that a communication from Dr. Beggs concerning the budget reductions will soon be shared with the university community through email. After considering this planning proposal, Linda would like to have feedback from members regarding whether they would like to have Dr. Beggs and/or Mary Herrin speak at the September 3rd meeting, or whether this can wait for a later meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Billie J. Norden