

Unclassified Professional Senate 2008-2009
January 21, 2009
207 RSC

Linda Black, President, called the meeting to order.

Present were: Linda Black, Lawrence Britton, Pam Chamberlin, Terry Coltrain, Maureen Dasey-Morales, Phil Ladwig, Billie Norden, Becky North, Jim Pearce

The minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were approved as corrected.

Linda made the first order of business electing a President-Elect for the senate for 2009/2010. Jim Pearce nominated Terry Coltrain for President-Elect. Terry stated that he had permission from both Chris Cavanaugh and Ted Ayres to accept the position. The motion was seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of confidence.

Linda announced that Elizabeth King would be speaking to the senate on April 1st. Pam Chamberlin said that she would double check on that date for Linda to make sure Dr. King will be available.

Following is the summary of the Constituents Head meeting held on January 12, 2009 that Mike Wood attended and recorded.

Attending: President Beggs, Provost Miller, Larry Spurgeon, Tanya Wickersham, Mike Wood

The Governor's address will probably be general-in-nature this evening.

Mary H. will receive one copy some time tomorrow and will begin looking at the specific implications for WSU. She will send relevant information to Tanya, since the Classified Senate presidents will be meeting on Wednesday to discuss the next stage of the salary upgrades (originally to have been funded over 5 years).

We know that insurance rates will raise by 4.5% next year.

Through November, the state was experiencing a tax revenue shortfall of \$184 million. The numbers for December are not yet in.

April 15th is the earliest that we should expect the anticipated revenue for FY 10. The legislature cannot begin bringing closure to the budget until after that.

The President and his cabinet are talking about scenarios, but with so many unknowns, it is impossible to make definite plans. The President wants to keep dialogue open up and down the line. Let him know if rumors are circulating to the point that morale is a problem.

A pilot with KU and FHSU, relative to more freedoms in purchasing, may be extended to the other Regents. KU and FHSU were both able to show savings.

The state has hired a security consultant, relative to data integrity. That report will probably be released to the individual schools soon.

The COCAO members met last week using videoconferencing facilities, saving time and money.

A proposal for a Bachelor of Health Science at WSU will be put forward. There is no other similar degree in the state system.

The deferred maintenance plans that were approved last year (e.g., Duerksen remodel) will, now, probably not be funded.

The idea of a flexible work week will be discussed further at a committee meeting on January 20th. There are many complexities to such a consideration. Gas prices are not the driving force that they were in September.

Committees:

- A. Professional Development – Jim Pearce said they will meet January 30th to refine plans for this semester
- B. Terry reported regarding the Flexible Work Schedule meeting held January 20. He stated this is something that will not proceed quickly because there is not a mandate for it. At the end of the meeting, there were few assignments. Terry will be talking to Mary Herrin and the Provost. One member of the committee will be checking on available expertise on campus that could advise the committee. They are planning on meeting again in one month. The need is to better define their objective and to sharpen the focus. Terry said that the flexible work schedule is being used more in Community Colleges.
- C. Grievance – Linda stated that it is important that the grievance process be reviewed in the event budget reductions require layoffs. While we are not aware that layoffs will be necessary, we feel it is important for the Senate and the Committee to be fully prepared to respond quickly should this become necessary. Linda suggested we review the Grievance Procedures and Financial Exigency Procedures for Unclassified Professionals in the WSU Policies and Procedures.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Billie J. Norden