

## **Unclassified Professional Senate**

### **Minutes**

January 19, 2011

Present: Grady Landrum, April Keim, Becky North, Connie Dietz, Donna Hawley, Frankie Brown, Kathy Downes, Jason Holmes, Rege Klitzke, Susan Norton, Kim Sandlin, Mike Wood, Cheryl Miller, Connie Landreth, Delinda Royse, Edie Brown, Sally Fiscus.

Absent: Janet Jensen, Melissa Ward, Pam Chamberlain, Kevin Crabtree.

- I. Call to order - Grady
- II. Review of Agenda – addition of unclassified demographics by Donna
- III. Review and Approval of minutes – motion (Cheryl/April) to approve. Motion passed
- IV. Constituents Head Meeting
  - a. Dr. Beggs is in Topeka discussing the budget and how the governor's budget will affect higher education. Anticipating 1.4- 1.6 million deficit to the budget for WSU.
  - b. Classified employee market adjustment will be discussed and how to handle in the coming year(s).
  - c. Some questions were discussed regarding the statement in the governor's speech regarding a freeze in general fund spending. Will readdress after today's meeting in Topeka.
  - d. Public broadcasting is targeted to lose funding. KMUW will lose around 20% of their budget. Options are being explored to make up the funding deficit.
  - e. Grady stated that the classified senate is sending five people to Topeka to discuss topics with the legislature. Some discussion ensued around the possibility of UPS doing the same.
- V. KBOR speech by Phil Wilke (see attachment)
  - a. Discussion of the speech. Filed.
- VI. Dependent Tuition TaskForce Report 3-1-2010
  - a. This was funded by KSU's foundation originally. Original discussion at WSU was that this could happen if this was budget neutral. Committee to be formed. Connie D., April and Susan. May discuss with Elizabeth King and the foundation on possibilities.
- VII. Committees
  - a. Service
  - b. Professional Development

- i. Working with Adobe for sessions. Microsoft Mac users in March for 2011.
  - c. Awards/Recognition
    - i. Meeting this afternoon for distinguished service award recipient.
  - d. Legislative
    - i. Kim mentioned that the alumni association is wanting to put together a group to talk to legislators. Contact person is Debbie Kennedy. Susan will follow up.
  - e. Grievance
  - f. Election
  - g. Dining Services
  - h. UPS Website
    - i. Senate website has a piece that is password protected. Will need to decide if we want to use it and for what purpose
  - i. RSC Board of Directors
    - i. Working with architects in to the spring.
- VIII. Spring Meeting
  - a. Meeting is usually in May. Last year was on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Grady will get a date on the calendar. Will need to discuss budget in the future.
- IX. Foundation report
  - a. Elizabeth King would like to come and present on the state of the foundation. Grady will get this on the schedule.
- X. Demographics (see attachment)
  - a. Donna discussed the findings of the demographic report on full time employees as of Nov. 2010. Skill codes are set by the federal government. Missing over ½ of the education level for unclassified.
  - b. Discussion on how we can increase the reporting on education level for Unclassifieds.
- XI. As May Arise
  - a. Discussion of the effect of +/- grading. Burden on the students and exceptions.
  - b. Survey – do we want to continue with the spring survey? Possibly add information of concerns and educational attainment
    - i. Kim will head a committee to make this happen.
- XII. Adjourn at 9:52.

Phil Wilke  
President, University of Kansas Unclassified Senate  
Address to the Kansas Board of Regents  
Jan. 20, 2011

Good morning. My name is Phil Wilke and I have the privilege of being president of the Unclassified Senate at KU this year. On behalf of unclassified staffers across all campuses, I'd like to say thank you.

Thank you to the Regents, to Dr. Tompkins and to the university presidents who supported our request for recognition as a formal Unclassified Staff Council, with the opportunity to address the Board with our members concerns and with our offers to help.

Unclassified staffers work in all disciplines across all campuses. We are researchers, administrators, IT professionals, librarians, public safety workers, academic advisors, recruiters and admissions counselors, and hold hundreds of other positions.

We help fulfill the missions of our schools. We believe in the value of higher education and we are ready to help.

As we put together the Unclassified Staff Council, we are seeking to contact colleagues across all campuses. Right now, some campuses have active Unclassified governance organizations, some are beginning such groups, and others don't have plans to start any. But regardless of the campus organizational chart, we want to reach out and let Unclassified staff know that there is a forum at the Regents level to interact with colleagues, to find resources, to learn about programs at other campuses and to bring our concerns, ideas and suggestions to you.

This is a new and a great opportunity for us. Again, thank you.

As our new Council continues to make contacts, we also have the opportunity to chart the course of our new group. Taking cues from our fellow Councils – the faculty, the students and the Classified staff – Unclassified staffers can create an organization that best serves our members and keeps the workers, the Regents and our university presidents informed about what we're focusing on and how best to help our campuses.

Our initial plans are to hold our first full-scale meeting this summer. Up to this point, our council meetings could have been held in a phone booth, if phone booths still existed. By the summer, we'll have Council members from all campuses and, hopefully, a robust discussion of issues.

One of our first issues is to find out how many of us there are. We'll be contacting campus HR departments and parsing the Regents Data Book for information. We can't help our colleagues if we don't we who are colleagues are.

Everybody in this room, everybody at the Legislature, heck, everybody in this state knows that times are tough, that funding is tight, and that it's not going to get appreciably better for a while.

But that can't be used to chop budgets for a short-range fix.

Unclassified staffers know that you can't have a productive state without high-quality higher education. We know you can't have an efficient or effective state without public support for higher education. You can't have a successful, resourceful or capable

state without a system of higher education that sends highly qualified graduates into the workforce every year. You can't have a diverse and inclusive system of higher education if tuition rates continue to skyrocket and exclude students from higher education because of cost.

And you can't ask staff – over and over and over – to continually do more with less.

Unclassified staffers are ready to help advocate for higher education any way we can and in any forum we're asked. But we also would like our contributions to the mission and the standing of our universities acknowledged, our dedicated and longtime service to our schools fairly compensated and our voices heard when major decisions about our workplaces are considered.

Thank you all again for this opportunity and we look forward to working with you in our new capacity.

Phil Wilke  
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| Campus                                    | Unclassified Staff |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| University of Kansas                      | 2174               |
| University of Kansas Medical Center       |                    |
| Kansas State University (incl. Extension) |                    |
| Wichita State University                  |                    |
| Emporia State University                  |                    |
| Pittsburg State University                | 215                |
| Fort Hays State University                |                    |