

**Minutes of the KSU Classified Senate  
April 6, 2011**

- I. President Becki Bohnenblust called the meeting to order.**
- II. Roll Call: Please make sure to sign in on the sign in sheet located with the meeting handouts**
  - A. *Present:* Becki Bohnenblust, Dale Billam, Paula Connors, Ramon Dominguez, Jody Fronce, Janet Finney, Doris Galvan, Brittany Green, Vickey Grochowski, Janel Harder, Annette Hernandez, Kerry Jennings, Connie Kisse, Gary Leitnaker, Hanna Manning, Christina Nash, Lesa Reves, Rob Reves, Cherry Rosenberry, Lois Schreiner, Michael Seymour II, Lindsay Thompson, Ann Marie Treinen, Pam Warren, Jackie Yonning, and Terri Wyrick
  - B. *Absent - Excused:* Brad Millington, Maria Sweet
- III. Minutes:**
  - A. The minutes reviewed for March 2011 and were approved.
- IV. Budget Report:**
  - A. Lois Schreiner stated that there was no treasurer's report for the month.
- V. Reports from Keynote Speakers President Schulz and Sue Peterson:**
  - A. *Classified Employee Benefits:* Sue Peterson stated that the House and the Senate is in a disagreement about KPERS. There is a seven billion shortfall in KPERS. There is one proposal, Bill 5194, to raise the retirement point system from 85 to 95 (age plus years of service) and raise the age of retirement to coincide with Social Security, which would affect new employees only. Classified senators are to speak with their respective areas and find out if the employees in their area would rather have a defined benefit plan, which would require employees to stay in KPERS or to move to a 401(k) type of retirement plan, which is a defined contribution plan. Moving to a 401(k) type of plan would give the employee greater flexibility. The state is not funding the longevity bonus but it is mandated by the state that the university fund the longevity. There was a bill in the state to get rid of longevity bonuses but the bill did not pass. Employees could see a 5% tax on their health insurance premiums effective January 1, 2012. The governor could veto the bill.
  - B. *Multiple State Agency Employment:* Sometimes a classified employee will transfer from one agency to another. This has caused problems in vacation and sick time accumulation. The forms that are used might be the problem which cannot be changed.
  - C. *Market Adjustments:* It has been recommended by the Senate committee that the market adjustments be funded through fiscal year 2012, but not for fiscal year 2013. The House committee has cut market adjustments completely for both fiscal years. There have been

new legislators that have taken office and might not truly understand the market adjustments. All university employees should voice their opinions to the legislators and it is best to do this when the elected officials are out of session. Do not use university computers, phones or email addresses to contact legislators at any time. A senator asked President Schulz if classified employees should again consider reviving the Alternative Service Committee. The president did not think that would be a benefit to classified employees.

- D. *Privatization*: There is not any part of the university that is going to be privatized. The university receives a lot of its funding through tuition and private donations so higher education seems to be going in that direction.
- E. *Cell Phones*: Some employees are required to carry cell phones creating a problem because the employees have to pay for any personal calls. There are two policies that are being created to address this situation. The university is waiting for approval from upper administration. The premium has not been decided but the premiums for both the employee and employer will see an increase.

## **VI. Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance Report:**

Gary Leitnaker reported:

- A. *Inclement Weather Policy*: Gary made changes to the on-line Inclement Weather Policy to reflect the current policy. He will give this to Janet Finney, Co-Chair of the Campus Affairs Committee, for review. If the committee believes changes should be made to the current policy, those changes should be brought forth and approved by the senate. Once approved, a recommendation should be given to Gary or sent to Bruce Shubert.
- B. *Computer Access for Classified Employees*: Some classified employees do not have the basic knowledge to use a computer, which becomes a problem for getting their paycheck information and campus e-mails. Most of these employees will need some extra training. Through Human Resources an information sheet will be created with instructions on how to sign on to a computer and get their paycheck information. These instruction sheets will be simple, 8" X 10" sheets of paper and will be located at public computers around campus.

## **VII. Executive Council Report:**

- A. *Classified Staff Opportunities and Athletics*: The Athletic Department would like to have a "Classified Staff Appreciation Day" at a K-State baseball game. The dates available would be April 21-23, May 6-8, or May 13-15. If the date is after the employee recognition ceremony then the employees that win "The Classified Award of Excellence" could throw out the first pitch. The game will start at 6:30 p.m. There was some discussion about a tailgate party at the game. Robert Reves moved to have the "Staff Appreciation Day" on Friday May 6, 2011. Hanna Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed. Becki will notify the Athletic Department about the date picked by Classified Senate. Becki will find out if the tickets will be just for the employees or will the tickets include their families.

Becki is working with Scott Garrett about getting a discount at the concession stand during the game for all employees in attendance at the game.

**VIII. Senate Standing Committees:** Committees will not break out in sessions due to elections, but the Recognition Ceremony will meet briefly after the senate meeting today.

- A. *Campus Affairs Committee:* The committee did not meet.
- B. *Legislative Affairs Committee:* The new Senators for senate years June 2011 to May 2014 are Ag and Extension, Janice Taggart; Administration and Finance, Michael Seymour Sr. and Terri Wyrick; Institutional Advancement, Kerry Jennings and Hanna Manning; Education, Susan Erichsen; and KSU Salina, Annette Hernandez. The representative for Hale Library has not been verified at this time. The Legislative Nominating Committee, per the Classified Senate by-laws, put together a slate of officers: Dale Billam as Vice-President, Annette Hernandez as Treasurer, Lois Schreiner as Secretary, and Paula Connors as At-Large Representative. Robert Reves made a motion to suspend the voting rules and adopt the nominees and cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. Connie Kisse seconded the motion. Motion passed by majority rule with two opposed and two abstaining.
- C. *Recognition Ceremony Committee:* The Classified Employee Recognition Ceremony will be held on April 27, 2011 in the K-State Union Ballroom. Letters have been sent out, flyers about the ceremony will go out soon, the plaques have been ordered, and the ceremony program is being printed. The committee will be picking out the door prizes after the meeting. The committee would like to advertise the event in K-State Today. All senators need to meet in the KSSU Ballroom on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to help set up the room.
- D. *Public Relations Committee:* Members of the committee are still waiting for articles to be submitted to the ROAR. The committee members would like for the ROAR to have a link in K-State Today.
- E. *Classified Employee Opportunity Fund:* Annette Hernandez will be the chair of the committee for the next classified senate year which is part of the duties as Treasurer. New committee members will be selected in June 2011. There have not been any new applications submitted since last month.

**IX. Campus Committee Reports:**

- A. *Safety and Service Committee:* Submit all safety issues to Lesa Reves or Becki Bohnenblust.
- B. *Recycling Committee:* E-Waste will be collected on April 30, 2011 in the D1 parking lot, which is west of the old stadium. There will be several volunteers that will collect the items.
- C. *2025 Visionary Plan:* The 2025 Visionary Plan is nearing the end of the development phase. Four to six ideas has been presented and the campus community will learn more about these in the near future.

D. *KSU 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*: On February 16, 2013, Kansas State University will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Senators and all classified employees will need to be thinking of ways to make that year great.

E. *Diversity Summit*: Only one senator was able to attend the Diversity Summit for half of the day. The senator comments were that the speaker was very good, the summit was presented like a talk show which made the summit very interesting, and the summit was exactly the right amount of time.

**X. Old Business:**

A. There was no old business.

**XI. New Business:**

A. There was no new business.

**XII. Adjournment:**

A. Janet Finney moved to adjourn the meeting. Annette Hernandez seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.