

## **Minutes of the K-State Classified Senate**

**April 3, 2013**

**I. President Dale Billam called the meeting to order and welcomed Connie Schmidt, attending for Pam Warren.**

**II. Roll Call**

**A. Present:** Mike Ashcraft, Dale Billam, Ramon Dominguez, Michele Edwards, Susan Erichsen, Pat Fine, Janet Finney, Doris Galvan, Annette Hernandez, Kerry Jennings, Gary Leitnaker, Kari Lindeen, Carol Marden, Brad Millington, Christina Nash, Connie Schmidt (for Pam Warren), Michael Seymour, Janice Taggart, Lindsay Thompson, Julie Wilburn, John Wolf, Terri Wyrick

**B. Absent, Excused:** Sharon Maike, Lesa Reves, Rob Reves, Maria Sweet

**III. President Kirk Schulz**

President Schulz reviewed the Kansas legislative session so far this year, and talked about the issues still to be resolved. The Kansas House is proposing a budget with a 4-5% reduction for higher education, and the Kansas Senate is proposing a 2% reduction for higher education. With the income tax cuts passed in last year's legislative session, the reduction in the state sales tax rate that was supposed to happen this July may be postponed to generate revenue, although the Senate and House differ on how to handle the matter. It appears there will be no raises for classified employees again this year. President Schulz and other members of the administration will be meeting with legislative leaders of both houses and with the governor later on this week. The results of the city commission elections this week seem favorable to promoting cooperation between the city and the university. President Schulz acknowledged the work of the Alternative Service Committee in exploring the options available for classified employees. The administration is neutral on this position but looks forward to working with the classified staff concerning the outcome of the vote. Annette Hernandez thanked President Schulz for his support of the Recognition Ceremony, and Mike Seymour thanked him for his support of the Employee Suggestion Program. President Schulz said our governance role was an important part of the university. With the budget issues the administration has to take a balanced approach to get the most impact for the money, but President Schulz said to continue to send issues forward for discussion and consideration.

**IV. Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed. Carol Marden requested a change to a sentence in XII. C. John Wolf moved to accept the minutes as amended. Annette Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**V. Budget/Treasurer's Report**

Annette Hernandez presented the budget report for the period March 1-31, 2013. Foundation Account C-21151-CS has a balance of \$1,681.88; Foundation Account C-21155-CS has a balance of \$274.01; Foundation Account C-23750-CS Awards Ceremony has a balance of \$43.59; and State Account NMAF205629 has a balance of \$1,792.63. Total funds available are \$3,792.11. Pat Fine moved to accept the treasurer's report. Kerry Jennings seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**VI. Associate VP/Human Resources & Parking Services Report**

- A. Gary Leitnaker informed Senate that the information and forms for the Employee Suggestion Program is now available on the HR website: <http://www.k-state.edu/hr/forms/>.
- B. Next Monday and Tuesday Aon Hewitt will be on campus to discuss the final report they have prepared for the human capital assessment. Classified Senate Executive Council will have a meeting at 11 a.m. on Monday in the Union to discuss the report.
- C. Information about the changes to KPERS contributions and calculations that will take effect in 2014 should be out by October or November. It was suggested that Classified Senate have someone from the benefits staff be the guest speaker for Senate for the August or September meeting to talk about the upcoming changes. The KPERS Board of Trustees Election is being held this month, April 1-April 30.
- D. Kerry Jennings asked if there was a university hiring freeze in effect right now. Gary Leitnaker said there was not.

**VII. Executive Council Report**

Nothing to report

**VIII. Classified Senate President's Report**

- A. Dale Billam provided information about current bills and events in the Kansas Legislature. The Kansas House budget proposal, if passed, would institute a \$56 million cut in higher education funds. The Kansas Policy Institute has presented some statistics that the Kansas Board of Regents has stated is incorrect and the BOR has given the correct figures for the information. HB 2384 that would change some classified positions to unclassified has not passed the House. HB 2052 concerning concealed carry laws is being discussed by a conference committee.

**IX. Senate Standing Committees**

Meetings were held for Campus Affairs, Recognition Ceremony, and Public Relations Committees.

- A. Campus Affairs Committee: Carol Marden reported that work on updating the Senate website is almost complete. The archives section needs to be revamped by the committee by the end of the week, and should be submitted to the full Senate for their review by Wednesday, April 10.
- B. Recognition Ceremony Committee: Annette Hernandez reported that the program will be sent to the printer today. Senators are asked to show up at 10 a.m. on April 24 if

they can help with set up for the ceremony. Door prizes will be purchased after the meeting today.

- C. Public Relations Committee: Lindsay Thompson reported that the next issue of the ROAR will be published around May 1. Articles should be submitted to Lindsay or Ramon Dominguez by April 26.

## **X. Old Business**

The employee tuition assistance proposal forwarded from Faculty Senate will be tabled due to the absence of Pam Warren.

## **XI. New Business**

- A. Carol Marden moved and Annette Hernandez seconded a motion to establish an ex-officio non-voting member of Senate. The position would be held by a member of the Alternative Service Committee, and would be appointed by the chair of the Alternative Service Committee. This would keep an open line of communication between the Alternative Service Committee and Senate. Dale Billam moved, Janice Taggart seconded, and the motion passed to table the motion. Later in the meeting Annette Hernandez moved, Pat Fine seconded, and the motion passed to take the original motion from the table. Since this would require a change in the by-laws, a two-thirds majority was needed for passage. A quorum being present, the motion passed with 17 yeas, 1 nay, and 3 abstentions.
- B. John Wolf expressed the concerns that he heard from classified employees about the nominations and elections for Senate positions.
- C. Elections for Senate officers for 2013/2014 were held. The following nominees were presented: Kerry Jennings, vice-president ; Susan Erichsen, secretary ; Annette Hernandez, treasurer ; Michele Edwards, at-large member ; Rob Reves, parliamentarian. Dale Billam asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations. John Wolf moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for the selected slate of officers. Janet Finney seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- D. The results of the Senate elections were announced. Rob Reves, Pam Warren, and Lindsay Thompson were all elected to second terms. Amy Capoun for Agriculture and Extension, Jen Schlegel and Brian Sheaves for Administration and Finance, and Michael Seymour II for the President/Provost will be new members of Senate beginning in June.

## **XII. Campus Committee Reports**

- A. Alternative Service Committee: Carol Marden reported that the timeline has changed. The first information session was on April 1 and Gary Leitnaker said that Carol and the committee did a fabulous job. Cindy Bontrager will ask for input from administrators. The committee will create an employee handbook for the Board of Regents and will work on that from May to September after the information sessions are finished. President Schulz will hold town hall meetings on November 4 and 15, with 2 meetings scheduled for each day. The vote for whether or not to switch to alternative service is tentatively scheduled for the week of November 18.

- B.** Recycling Committee: Mike Ashcraft reported that they are working on plans for an Earth Day open house in April. The one stop drop program for recycling is in effect now.
- C.** Council on Parking Operations: Terri Wyrick reported that a quorum was not present at the last meeting so no official business could be conducted. Bike regulations and storage of bikes was discussed. An open forum will be held April 18 at 3:30 in the Union. Parking fee increases are not proposed for this year.
- D.** Service & Maintenance Committee: Dale Billam reported that they received an injury status report. 14 injuries were reported in Facilities, and most were due to unsafe work practices.
- E.** Search Committees: Annette Hernandez reported that the position for department head of Engineering Technology at Salina has interviewed 4 candidates and the committee has made their recommendation to the dean.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

Janice Taggart moved to adjourn the meeting. Christina Nash seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Fine

Classified Senate Secretary