A Letter From the Classified Senate President

Another semester is almost over, and the Classified Senate has been busy. In January, the Classified & Support Staff Council (CSSC) representing classified employees from all six Kansas Board of Regents universities met to present our second report to the Kansas Board of Regents. We also completed our annual Position Paper (statement of what we would like the Kansas Legislators to do for the classified employees of Kansas). On January 26, we held our first ‘Day on the Hill’ in Topeka. Members of the CSSC met with legislators and presented our Position Paper. The second ‘Day on the Hill’ was held on March 9. A morning reception was held for legislators as a ‘meet and greet’ with the representatives of the CSSC. Our ‘Position Paper’ was presented to those who attend.

At the March 2010 Classified Senate meeting, the Senate approved a new committee that would be responsible for welcoming new classified employees to campus. At that time, there were approximately 10 new classified employees that had been hired since January 1, 2010. The Senate agreed to go back and meet with these new employees. Members of the Senate volunteered to serve on this committee and start organizing materials to present to the classified new hires. Frankie Brown, Director of Human Resources, donated coffee tumblers that are engraved with ‘Classified Staff’ to include in our welcoming package. Thus far, the ‘Welcoming Committee’ has met with approximately seven classified employees.

April was a busy month for the Classified Senate. The Classified Senate Community Service committee organized a volunteer opportunity for WSU employees and students. On April 16, 10 employees and students met at the Habitat for Humanity village and helped install dry-wall and insulation. Another challenge the Classified Senate Community Service committee took on this year was the idea of starting a scholarship fund for WSU employees or their dependents. On April 29, the committee joined Lynette Murphy from the WSU Foundation to hammer out some details. The first item of business was to decide on a name. After much discussion, it was proposed that we name this new scholarship the “Shocker Employee & Dependent Scholarship.” Other details about the scholarship were discussed including who could contribute and who would be eligible for this scholarship, as well as how we could raise money for this scholarship. All details about the scholarship were presented at the May 12 Classified Senate meeting.

Members of the Classified Senate also helped organize the 10th Annual WSU Car Show. The WSU Car Show raises money for the Midian Shrine Plane of Mercy. This event was held on Sunday, April 25. According to Lori Evans, WSU Car Show Co-Chair, “We had a record number of cars and a record amount of money was raised.”

On May 12, the Classified Senate held its last meeting of the academic year. All 2009-2010 senators were to attend. The Senate also invited the newly elected 2010-2011 senators to this meeting. In addition to welcoming our newly elected senators, we had to say goodbye to our outgoing senators. We would like to say thank you for your service on the Classified Senate to the following senators: George Corbin, Reena Goforth, Nikki McDermed, Lois Nicholas, Jan Toth, George Schroeder, and Lloyd Harp.

Tanya Wickersham
The tradition continued at the 10th Annual WSU Car Show. The show is an annual event and was held on April 25, 2010, at WSU. There were great looking cars, truck and motorcycles; great music; nice weather; and a lot of fun had by all who attended. The show is produced entirely by WSU employees but anyone may enter. There were over 140 entries.

Proceeds from the show benefit the Midian Shrine Plane of Mercy, which provides transportation across the country for children in need of medical care at various Shrine Hospitals. This year $2,000.00 was raised — the most ever raised at one show.

Award categories included Best of Show, President’s Choice, First Lady’s Choice, Top 25, Club Participation, Most Unique, Best Non-Motorized Vehicle, Emergency Vehicle and Best WSU Employee Vehicle. This year’s top winners were Iban and Joeva Wheeler (Best of Show), Steve Joyce (President’s Choice), Ray Mick (First Lady’s Choice), Dale Baker (Best WSU Employee), Bob Francis (Best Midian Shriner), Clem Renedez (Best Competition), Chad Poort (Best Motorcycle), Iban and Joeva Wheeler (Most Unique), and Garrett Moyer (Best Emergency).

Make plans now to enter your vehicle, volunteer to help out, or just come out to enjoy all the fun at the next show on Sunday, April 3, 2011. If you would like to be involved, please contact Lori Evans at 316-978-5691.
What is CSO?

Many people do not know what the Classified Staff Organization does within the College of Health Professions. CSO is the only organization of its kind on campus. It is a voluntary group of classified personnel within CHP. “We get together once a month for a meeting as well as hold many activities and fundraisers throughout the year,” says Michael Turenne. All of the money earned from the fundraisers goes directly to the students and other organization donations, such as the Children’s Home, Women’s Crisis Center, and Open Door Ministry. For their Fall 2009 fundraiser, the CSO sold spring blooming bulbs to help with the fall student stipend.

The purpose of the Classified Staff Organization is to foster quality and professionalism in service, support, and communication to students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the College of Health Professions and to the community through many different goals and services.

The primary service of CSO is to serve the students. “One way in which we complete this,” says Turenne, “is through the student stipend that is given each semester.” The organization is together to also help fellow staff members. CSO serves as an information sharing organization so that everyone can stay informed.

Recently, CSO has begun an organizational project to help with the University’s initiative to Reshape and Rebuild. They meet with Dean Cohen quarterly to maintain communication and update him on the program.

For more information about the CHP CSO, please contact Carol Trent, Facilitator; Denise Weigand, Secretary/Hospitality; Patty McLinden, Treasurer; or Michael Turenne, Newsletter at 978-3600.
President’s Distinguished Service Awards

The President’s Distinguished Service Awards and the Unclassified Professional Senate’s Wayne Carlisle Distinguished Service Award were presented on April 28 by President Beggs. A reception for the honorees was held prior the ceremony as part of the Shocker Pride celebration.

Three classified employees, three unclassified employees and three faculty are selected based on nominations from the University community. The individuals nominated have “demonstrated outstanding service to the University beyond their job description” in the areas of quality of work, proficiency in completing tasks, creativity, initiative, adaptability, dedication to the university, teamwork and cooperation, professional demeanor, positive attitude and good work ethics.

This year’s classified winners were Matthew Albers from Postal Services, Shanda Burch from TRIO Disability Support Services, and Sandra Goentzel from the WSU Foundation.

Classified Senate Members for 2010-2011

Matthew Albers, Postal Services
Heather Ballard, Police Department
Sheila Bates, Enrollment Services
Shanda Burch, Disability Support Srvs
Darryl Carrington, Housing Cust & Maint
Linda Claypool, Enrollment Services
Melissa Conley, Registrar’s Office
Sonya Cotton, Registrar’s Office
Tonya Cruz, Human Resources
Lou Dixson, Housing & Residence Life
Bec Espinosa, Physical Plant
Holidaye Evans, Police Department
Susan Fordyce, Physical Plant
Kyle Garwood, Police Department
Elaine Harvey, Ablah Library
Jim Herron, Physical Plant

Michael Hinkle, Physical Plant
Ricky Kennedy, Police Department
Brenda Khan, School of Art & Design
Blaine Linehan, Financial Operations
Angela McNew, Financial Aid
Dennis Moore, Physical Plant
Garrett Moyer, Police Department
Bernard Smith, Research Admin
Richelle Stoner, Police Department
Hercilia Thompson, TRIO Prog Supp
Felicia Torres, Financial Operations
Robin Traore, Financial Operations
Melinda Ware, Counseling/Testing Ctr
Margene Webster, Human Resources
Tanya Wickersham, Human Resources
David Wise, Physical Plant